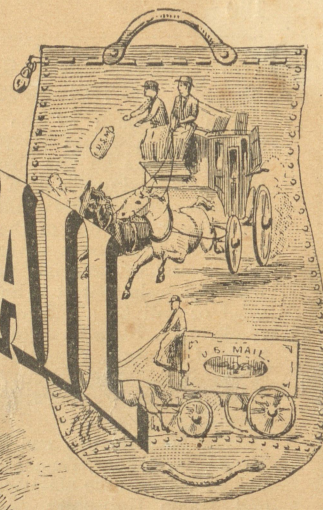
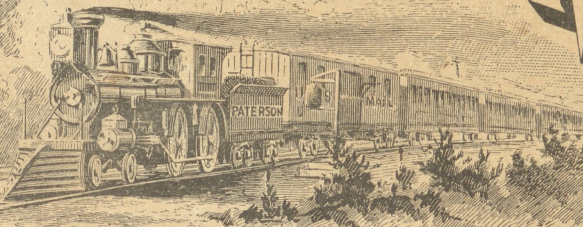




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No. 21

NOTICE TO POSTMASTERS AT FOURTH-CLASS POST-OFFICES

With Regard to Sales and Cancellations of Stamps, etc.

POST-OFFICE DEPARTMENT,
OFFICE OF POSTMASTER-GENERAL,
WASHINGTON, D. C., May 20TH, 1886.

Order No. 72.

FROM a number of cases recently brought to the notice of the Department, where the facts have been ascertained through the special investigations of Post-office Inspectors, it has become apparent that many postmasters at fourth-class offices have been guilty of habitually rendering to the Auditor false returns of cancellation, or returns that are based upon mere estimate and not upon a daily count and record of stamps canceled, thereby increasing their compensation beyond the amount they are justly entitled to by law. The following provisions in the Act of Congress approved June 17th, 1878, are therefore published for the information of all concerned:

EXTRACT FROM ACT APPROVED JUNE 17TH, 1878.

"That in any case where the Postmaster-general shall be satisfied that a postmaster has made a false return of business, it shall be within his discretion to withhold commissions on such returns, and to allow any compensation that under the circumstances he may deem reasonable: *Provided*, That the form of affidavit to be made by postmasters upon their returns shall be such as may be prescribed by the Postmaster-general; and any postmaster who shall make a false return to the Auditor, for the purpose of fraudulently increasing his compensation under the provisions of this or any other Act, shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor, and, on conviction thereof, shall be fined in a sum not less than fifty nor more than five hundred dollars, or imprisoned for a term not exceeding one year, or punished by both such fine and imprisonment, in the discretion of the Court; and no postmaster of any class, or other person connected with the postal service, intrusted with the sale or custody of postage stamps, stamped envelopes, or postal cards, shall use or dispose of them in the payment of debts, or in the purchase of merchandise or other salable articles, or pledge or hypothecate the same, or sell or dispose of them except for cash, or sell or dispose of postage stamps or postal cards for any larger or less sum than the values indicated on their faces, or sell or dispose of stamped envelopes for a larger or less sum than is charged therefor by the Post-office Department for like quantities, or sell or dispose of postage stamps, stamped envelopes, or postal cards otherwise than as provided by law and the regulations of the Post-office Department; and any postmaster, or other person connected with the postal service, who shall violate any of these provisions, shall be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor, and, on conviction thereof, shall be fined in any sum not less than fifty nor more than five hundred dollars, or be imprisoned for a term not exceeding one year."

In connection with the above provisions of law, postmasters at offices of the fourth class are hereby reminded that their compensation consists mainly of commissions on the *cancellation*, not on the *sales*, of stamps, and that consequently, in order to make honest returns of business to the Auditor, every such postmaster should keep—upon the blank transcript which forms a part of his account current—a daily account of the stamps canceled, upon matter actually mailed from his office.

In no case should the *sales* of stamps,

stamped envelopes, etc., be taken as a basis for computing the commissions of postmasters at fourth-class offices.

The Statute above quoted has been recently applied in a number of cases, and the postmasters' compensation reduced many thousands of dollars in those considered.

In future the Department will make frequent and special examination of the accounts of postmasters, which will be in addition to the examination given them by the Auditor; and in every case where, from such examination, or from investigations to be made through Post-office Inspectors, it appears that a postmaster has deliberately rendered false returns of business, or has made out his returns from memory, or upon estimate and not from an actual record kept by him, the exercise of the discretion conferred by the Act of Congress referred to above will require his commissions on such returns to be withheld, and such compensation only allowed as shall be deemed reasonable under the circumstances, and the guilty party will be summarily dismissed from office.

Every newly appointed postmaster who observes his cancellations to be materially less than those reported by his predecessor is enjoined to promptly communicate the facts to the Third Assistant Postmaster-general.

WILLIAM F. VILAS.
Postmaster-general.

OPPOSITION TO LOTTERIES.

A Bill Prohibiting the Passage through the Mails of Matters Relating to Lotteries, Gift Enterprises, Etc.

CHAIRMAN BLOUNT, of the House Post-office Committee, yesterday reported to the House from that committee a Bill, in lieu of several others on the same subject, amending section 3,894, Revised Statutes, relating to the transmission through the United States mail of lottery, gift enterprise, and other circulars. The Bill perfects the existing statutes so as to make it conform to the decisions of the courts, and amends it by the insertion of the following clause: "And all newspapers and periodicals containing advertisements of any such lotteries, schemes, drawings, or distributions, or the tickets, shares, or chances therein, are hereby declared to be non-mailable matters, and shall not be conveyed in the mails of the United States nor be delivered from any post-office or by any letter-carrier." No newspaper is to be excluded from the mails until notice shall have been given by the Postmaster-general to the publisher that some advertisement published therein is deemed to be within the provisions of the Act; but after such notice every copy of the paper containing the advertisement shall be excluded, and whoever shall knowingly deposit the same in the mails shall be liable to the penalties provided in the Act. The Bill also makes it a misdemeanor for any person to use an alias or fictitious name or address to promote a lottery scheme, and requires

the return of matter addressed to such persons to the sender. In the accompanying report the committee says: "In considering the proposition of excluding newspapers and periodicals from the mails when they contain certain lottery advertisements but two questions require examination; first, as to the constitutionality of such an Act, and second, conceding the power of Congress in the matter, would it be justified in exercising it? In answer to the first question, the decision of the United States Supreme Court in *ex parte Jackson* is cited as affirming the power of Congress; and, as meeting the second interrogatory, the action of those States which have passed Acts adverse to lotteries are cited. . . . This action of the State Governments furnishes overwhelming evidence of the most enlightened condemnation by the people of the United States of the pernicious effects of such schemes, and yet the transmission through the mails of newspapers and periodicals advertising the same cannot be restrained by the States. It may be by Congress. Having such power, will this body ignore the moral sense of the country by prostituting the mails of the United States for the advancement of immoral purposes? Will it exercise its power, which is complete over the subject-matter, in harmony with the conscience of the American people? Your committee insist that the passage of the accompanying Bill is only a decent regard for public opinion and the public good, and recommend its enactment into law." A minority report, signed by Messrs. Thomas B. Ward and Joseph H. Jones, dissents from the majority report, and holds that the proposed legislation as to newspapers is unconstitutional. It contends that the Jackson case cited by the majority does not support the proposition. The exclusion proposed is a judicial act. The Bill attempts to vest an administrative officer with judicial functions and powers. The effect will be to deprive the citizen of his property without due process of law. The answer that the proprietor of a newspaper may avoid the effect of the statute by excluding the objectionable matter brings the Bill face to face with the first amendment to the Constitution, which provides that Congress shall make no law "abridging the freedom of speech or of the press."—*Washington Republican*.

"ARE the mails in yet," asked a wag of a Republican Postmaster, who was expecting every day to have his successor named; "Yes," said he, "there is *one male* in, but he is liable to go out any day."

OUR esteemed friend B. F. JACOBS, the venerable postmaster at Clearfield, Iowa, has kindly sent us his photograph. His aged wife is standing by his side, and a nicer-looking couple would be hard to find. Mr. JACOBS is still on deck in that village, and if the good wishes of THE UNITED STATES MAIL are of any service to him, they are cordially extended.

THE POST-OFFICE COMMITTEE OF THE HOUSE.

THE Chairman of the House Post-office Committee is JAMES H. BLUNT, of Macon, Georgia, where he was born Sept. 12th, 1836. He is now serving his sixth term in Congress, and is regarded as one of the ablest men in the House as well as one of the most honest and upright. Mr. Blunt never favors legislation as a means of securing personal popularity when he feels that it is hurtful to the public good or will be a willful waste of the public funds. Mr. Blunt represents the Sixth District of Georgia, composed of the counties of Baldwin, Bibb, Butts, Crawford, Jasper, Jones, Monroe, Pike, Twiggs, Upson, and Wilkinson.

JOHN MAY TAYLOR was born at Lexington, Henderson County, Tennessee, May 18th, 1838; was educated at the Male Academy, Lexington, and Union University, Murfreesboro', Tennessee; studied law and graduated at the law school of Cumberland University, Lebanon, Tennessee; is a lawyer; was elected First Lieutenant, Confederate States Army, in June, 1861, and in same year promoted to Captain in the Twenty-seventh Tennessee Regular Infantry; in 1862 was elected Major of the Regiment; was elected Mayor of Lexington in May, 1869; elected a Delegate to the State Constitutional Convention of Tennessee in December, 1869; and was a member in 1870, serving on the Committee on Bill of Rights and New Counties and County Lines; in August, 1870, was elected Attorney-general of the Eleventh Judicial Circuit of Tennessee, and served eight years; was a Delegate from the Eighth Congressional District to the National Democratic Convention at Cincinnati in 1880; was elected a Representative in the Legislature from Henderson County in September, 1881; was elected to the Forty-eighth Congress, and was re-elected to the Forty-ninth Congress as a Democrat, receiving 12,781 votes against 11,529 votes for James Warren, Republican. Mr. Taylor represents the Third District of Tennessee, composed of the counties of Bledsoe, Bradley, Cumberland, Grundy, Hamilton, James, Marion, McMinn, Meigs, Monroe, Polk, Rhea, Sequatchie, Van Buren, Warren and White.

ALEXANDER MONROE DOCKERY, of Gallatin, was born in Livingston County, Missouri, February 11th, 1845; attended the common schools, completing his education at Macon Academy, Macon, Missouri; studied medicine and graduated at the St. Louis Medical College in March, 1865; also attended lectures at Bellevue College, New York city, and Jefferson Medical College, Philadelphia, during the Winter of 1865-'66; practiced medicine at Chillicothe, Missouri, until January, 1874, serving several years as County Physician of Livingston County; in March, 1874, abandoned the practice of medicine and removed to Gallatin, Missouri, and assisted in organizing the Farmers' Exchange Bank, of which organization he was cashier until elected to Congress; was one of the Curators of the University of Missouri from 1872 to 1882, and in 1870, '71, and '72 President of the Board of Education of Chillicothe, Missouri; has served as Chairman of the Congressional Committee of his District; was a member of the City Council of Gallatin for the five years previous to April, 1883, serving the last two years as Mayor, elected without opposition; was elected to the Forty-eighth Congress, and was re-elected to the Forty-ninth Congress as a Democrat, receiving 19,129 votes against 15,854 votes for Harwood, Republican, and 814 votes for Jordan, Greenbacker. Mr. Dockery represents the Eighth District of Missouri, composed of the counties of Caldwell, Clay, Clinton, DeKalb, Daviess, Gentry, Harrison, Mercer, Ray, and Worth.

HENRY H. BINGHAM, of Philadelphia, was born at Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, in 1841; was graduated at Jefferson College in 1862; studied law; entered the Union Army as a Lieutenant in the One Hundred and Fortieth Pennsylvania Volunteers; was wounded at Gettysburg, Pennsylvania, in 1863, Spottsylvania, Virginia in 1864, and at Farmville, Vir-

ginia, in 1865; mustered out of service July, 1886, as Brevet Brigadier-general of Volunteers; was appointed Postmaster of Philadelphia in March, 1867, and resigned November, 1872, to accept the Clerkship of the Courts of Oyer and Terminer and Quarter Sessions of the Peace at Philadelphia, having been elected by the people; was re-elected Clerk of Courts in 1875; was Delegate at Large to the Republican National Convention at Philadelphia in 1872, also Delegate from the First Congressional District to the Republican National Convention at Cincinnati in 1876 and Chicago in 1884; was elected to the Forty-sixth, Forty-seventh, and Forty-eighth Congresses, and was re-elected to the Forty-ninth Congress as a Republican, receiving 20,227 votes against 13,403 votes for Tipton, Democrat, and 2 votes scattering. Mr. Bingham represents the First District of Pennsylvania.

JULIUS C. BURROWS, of Kalamazoo, was born at North East, Erie County, Pennsylvania, January 9th, 1837; received a common school and academic education; studied law, was admitted to the Bar, and has since practiced; was an officer in the Union Army, 1862-1864; was Prosecuting Attorney of Kalamazoo County, 1865-1867; was appointed Supervisor of Internal Revenue for the States of Michigan and Missouri in 1867, but declined the office; was elected a Representative in the Forty-third, Forty-sixth, and Forty-seventh Congresses; was appointed Solicitor of the United States Treasury Department by President Arthur in 1884, but declined the office; was elected a Delegate at Large from Michigan to the National Republican Convention at Chicago in 1884; and was elected to the Forty-ninth Congress as a Republican, receiving 18,567 votes, against 18,212 votes for Yople, Democrat and Greenbacker, Fusionist, 1,232 votes for Alcott, Prohibitionist, and 11 votes scattering. Mr. Burrows represents the Fourth District of Michigan, composed of the counties of Berrien, Cass, Kalamazoo, St. Joseph, and Van Buren.

JAMES B. WAKEFIELD, of Blue Earth City, was born at Winsted, Connecticut, March, 1828; graduated at Trinity College, Hartford, in 1846; studied law in Painesville, Ohio, and commenced practice at Delphi, Indiana, in 1852; removed to Minnesota in 1854; was elected to the State House of Representatives in 1858 and 1863; was again elected in 1865, and was Speaker of that body in session of 1866; was a member of the Senate in 1867 and '68, and was re-elected for 1869 and '70; resigned in 1869, and was appointed Receiver of United States Land Office at Winnebago City, Minnesota; and resigned in 1875, and was elected in the fall Lieutenant-governor for a term of two years; was re-elected in 1877; was elected to the Forty-ninth Congress as a Republican, receiving 20,813 votes against 10,639 votes for Thornton, Democrat, and 1,079 votes for Copp, Prohibitionist. General Wakefield represents the Second District of Minnesota, composed of the following counties: Blue Earth, Brown, Cottonwood, Faribault, Jackson, Le Sueur, Lincoln, Lacqui-parle, Lyon, Martin, Murray, Nicollet, Nobles, Pipe Stone, Redwood, Rock, Sibley, Watonwan, Waseca, and Yellow Medicine.

A. J. WARNER, of Marietta, was born in Erie County, New York, January 13th, 1834, was educated at Beloit, Wisconsin, and New York Central College, New York; was Principal of the Lewistown Academy, and Superintendent of Public Schools of Mifflin County, and Principal of Mercer Union Schools, Pennsylvania, from 1856 to 1861; entered the Army as Captain in a Pennsylvania Regiment in 1861, was promoted to Lieutenant-colonel and Colonel, and breveted as Brigadier-general; served through the war, participating in various battles, and was severely wounded at Antietam; studied law, and was admitted to the Bar in 1865, but engaged in other business; was elected to the Forty-sixth and Forty-eighth Congresses, was re-elected to the Forty-ninth Congress as a Democrat, receiving 19,173 votes against 18,947 votes for Taylor, Republican, 91 votes for Sigman, Greenbacker, and 214 votes for McElhany, Prohibi-

tionist. Mr. Warner represents the Seventeenth District of Ohio, composed of the following counties: Belmont, Guernsey, Monroe, Noble and Washington.

SAMUEL RITTER PETERS, of Newton, was born in Walnut Township, Pickaway County, Ohio, August 16th, 1842; received a common school education and about three years of a collegiate education; enlisted in the Army in the Fall of 1861, and was mustered out in June, 1865, having held successively the offices of Sergeant, Second Lieutenant, First Lieutenant, Adjutant, and Captain; was elected in the Fall of 1874 to the State Senate of Kansas; was appointed in March, 1875, Judge of the Ninth Judicial District; in the Fall of 1875 was elected to the same judgeship without opposition, and re-elected in 1879; was elected to the Forty-eighth Congress as Congressman at Large from Kansas, and was re-elected to the Forty-ninth Congress as a Republican, receiving 26,240 votes against 15,913 votes for Bickell, Democrat, 496 votes for Arnott, Greenbacker, and 25 votes scattering. Judge Peters represents the Seventh District of Kansas, composed of the following counties: McPherson, Harvey, Sedgwick, Sumner, Harper, Kingman, Reno, Rice, Barton, Stafford, Pratt, Barbour, Comanche, Edwards, Pawnee, Rush, Ness, Hodgeman, Ford, Lane, Scott, Finney, Seward, Wichita, Greeley, and Hamilton.

JAMES M. RIGGS, of Winchester, was born in Scott County, Illinois, April 17th, 1839; received a common school and a partial collegiate education; studied law, was admitted to the Bar, and has since practiced; was elected Sheriff of Scott County in November, 1864, and served two years; represented Scott County in the House of the Twenty-seventh General Assembly of Illinois, 1871-'72; was elected State's Attorney for Scott County in November, 1872, and served four years; was elected to the Forty-eighth Congress, and was re-elected to the Forty-ninth Congress as a Democrat, receiving 22,046 votes against 15,177 votes for Black, Republican, 820 votes for Parker, Greenbacker, 161 votes for Wallace, Prohibitionist, and 40 votes scattering. Mr. Riggs represents the Twelfth District of Illinois, composed of the following counties: Adams, Brown, Calhoun, Cass, Greene, Jersey, Pike, and Scott.

THOMAS B. WARD, of La Fayette, was born at Marysville, Union County, Ohio, April 27th, 1835; his parents removed to La Fayette, Indiana (where he has since resided), in May, 1836; was educated at Wabash College, Indiana, and at Miami University, Oxford, Ohio; graduated at the last-named institution in June, 1855; studied law at La Fayette, Indiana, and was admitted to the Bar in 1857; was elected Mayor of La Fayette in 1861, and re-elected in 1863, serving four years; served one term as Clerk to the City of La Fayette, and three terms as City Attorney of that city; was appointed by Governor Hendricks, in 1875, Judge of the Superior Court of Tippecanoe County, Indiana, then newly created, and elected to that position in 1876, serving five years in all as Judge; was elected to the Forty-eighth Congress, and was re-elected to the Forty-ninth Congress as a Democrat, receiving 19,241 votes against 18,628 votes for Doxey, Republican, 602 votes for Cotton, Greenbacker, and 271 votes for Cornelius M. Riggins. Judge Ward represents the Ninth District of Indiana, composed of the counties of Boone, Clinton, Hamilton, Madison, Tippecanoe, and Tipton.

JAMES H. JONES, of Henderson, was born in Shelby County, Alabama, September 13th, 1830; was raised in Talladega County, Alabama; received an academic education; studied law; was admitted to the Bar in 1851, and commenced practice at Henderson, Texas; served in the Confederate service as Captain, Lieutenant-colonel, and Colonel of the Eleventh Texas Infantry, and at the close of the war was commanding the Third Brigade in Walker's Old Division of the Trans-Mississippi Military Department; was a Presidential Elector on the Hancock and English Ticket in 1880; never held any civil office

until he was elected to the Forty-eighth Congress. He was re-elected to the Forty-ninth Congress a Democrat, receiving 23,504 votes against 529 votes for Conley, Republican, and 149 votes scattering. Mr. Jones represents the Third District of Texas, comprised of the following counties: Camp, Gregg, Harrison, Hunt, Panola, Rains, Rusk, Shelby, Smith, Upshur, Van Zandt, and Wood.

TRUMAN ADAMS MERRIMAN, of New York city, was born at Auburn, New York, September 5th, 1839; was educated at the Auburn Academy, and at Hobart College, Geneva, New York, graduating in 1861; entered the Union Army in September, 1861, as Captain in the Ninety-second New York Infantry, and was mustered out in December, 1864, as Lieutenant-colonel; studied law, and was admitted to the Bar in 1867; entered the profession of journalism in 1871, and was elected to the Forty-ninth Congress as a Democrat, receiving 19,588 votes against 11,563 votes for John Har-ry, Democrat, and 252 votes scattering. Mr. Merriman represents the Eleventh District of New York and resides in the city.

RICHARD GUENTHER, of Oshkosh, was born at Potsdam, Prussia, November 30th, 1845; received a collegiate education; studied pharmacy in the Royal Pharmacy at Potsdam; emigrated to the United States in July, 1866; removed to Oshkosh in 1867; was elected State Treasurer of Wisconsin in 1876 and re-elected in 1878; was elected to the Forty-seventh and Forty-eighth Congresses, and was re-elected to the Forty-ninth Congress as a Republican, receiving 16,425 votes against 15,197 votes for Smith, Democrat, 955 votes for Sutton, Prohibitionist, 271 votes for Hanson, Greenbacker, and 55 votes scattering. Mr. Guenther represents the Sixth District of Wisconsin, made up of the following counties: Adams, Columbia, Green Lake, Marquette, Outagamie, Waushara, and Winnebago.

STEPHEN C. MILLARD, of Binghamton, was born at Stamford, Vermont, January 14th, 1841; was educated at Williams College, Massachusetts, graduating in the class of 1865; read law at Harvard Law School, and in the office of Pingree & Baker, Pittsfield, Massachusetts, and was admitted to the Bar of the State of New York in May, 1867, at Binghamton; was elected to the Forty-eighth Congress, and re-elected to the Forty-ninth Congress as a Republican, receiving 23,773 votes against 18,783 votes for Remick, Democrat, 1,534 votes for Joseph W. Bruce, Prohibitionist, and 21 votes scattering. Mr. Millard represents the Twentieth District of New York, comprised of the following counties: Broome, Chenango, Madison, and Tioga.

F. G. BARRY, of West Point, was born at Woodbury, Tennessee, of Irish parentage, January 15th, 1845; received a rudimentary education; served as a private in the Confederate Army; studied law, was admitted to the Bar, and has since practiced; was a member of the State Senate of Mississippi in 1875-'79; was a Democratic Elector at Large for the State of Mississippi in 1880; and was elected to the Forty-ninth Congress as a Democrat, receiving 13,200 votes against 5,723 votes for W. D. Frazee, Republican. Mr. Barry represents the Fourth District of Mississippi, composed of the counties of Calhoun, Carroll, Chickasaw, Choctaw, Clay, Grenada, Kemper, Montgomery, Neshoba, Pontotoc, Webster, Winston, and Yalobusha.

FROM KEY TO VILAS.

How Several Postmasters-general Impressed a Lady Clerk in the Department.

A LADY who has been a clerk in the Post-office Department for eight or ten years, and who is in a position where she has had an opportunity to study the characteristics of the various Postmasters-general under whom she has served, was speaking a few days ago within hearing of a *Post* reporter of the personal characteristics of the various heads of the department during her time. "I came into the Post-office Department during the administration of Postmaster-general Key," she said.

"He was a lovely old man, gentle and fatherly toward his clerks, and very seldom, if ever, spoke a cross word to them. Though he was familiar, no one ever attempted to take liberties with him. Mr. Maynard, his successor, was his opposite in every respect, being haughty and exclusive, and all the lady clerks were half frightened when he approached. He was not very much liked. Mr. James, the next one, we used to laugh at. He was the embodiment of pomposity, and his manner was far too complacent to render him popular from a social standpoint with the ladies. The only qualifications which rendered his administration valuable to the department were his thorough business qualities, which were beyond question. Mr. Gresham was a great favorite with the ladies, being handsome and pleasant, the only objection being that he was not young enough. This objection did not hold good with Frank Hatton, who combined the good qualities of his predecessors with youth and sprightliness. He used to dash around the department like an overgrown schoolboy, joking with the ladies and playing all sorts of pranks on them. He greatly horrified his sedate and grave First Assistant, James N. Tyner, by coming into collision with him at the head of the stairs, up which he had been leaping three or four steps at a time. He once played a trick on his handsome private secretary, Paul Hendricks, which, had the latter been other than a thoroughly good-natured young fellow, would have engendered some bad feeling. Mr. Hendricks was very attentive to a charming young lady in the money-order division, and it was a foregone conclusion with the old ladies that a match had been made and would be soon consummated. While Mr. Hendricks was away on his leave, and at Indianapolis, Mr. Hatton thought of a joke he would play on the former's fiancée, and immediately put it into execution. He wrote a telegram to the young lady, stating that Paul Hendricks had been married in Indianapolis the day before, and signed the victim's name. The young lady was terribly cut up by the news, and was only restored to her normal condition by the return of her lover and the abject apologies of Mr. Hatton." "Well, what do you think of Mr. Vilas?" was asked of the speaker. "Oh! I have not had time enough to study him thoroughly; but," she added, "so far he seems to be very nice; don't you think so?"—*Washington Post*.

POSTAL HOLIDAYS.

A GENTLEMAN was heard to ask a "penny postman," and in great surprise, too, why the post-office was not closed on Washington's Birthday. Now, for the newspaper man there is no holiday, consequently it is not much to be wondered at that the reporter in question was not up on legal holidays to the extent of knowing whether or not Uncle Sam shut up shop on Washington's Birthday. Thinking there must be in the surprise of the citizen aforementioned something of vast political import, a walk to the post-office, and a dignified, ponderous interview with the postmaster, were decided upon. The postmaster was not to be seen, however, as he was confined to his house by illness, but his polite representative gave some information about closing which may be of interest to the public. The last year Washington's Birthday was kept as a holiday in the Post-office Department here and throughout the country was in 1879.

Since that time the business houses have not closed even part of the day, and as the postal service is primarily for the purpose of facilitating business, the post-offices have been open. In 1882 it was asked of the Department at Washington if the post-office here could close on Washington's Birthday. The reply was that the postmaster could close the doors if there was a general suspension of business; but as such was not the case, the 22d of February is no longer a holiday in the Post-office Department. The offices throughout the country have been directed to close on Christmas Day, New Year's Day, Thanksgiving Day, and any other day which the State may appoint as a special fast or solemn holiday. They are

also directed to close between the hours of ten and five o'clock on Decoration Day. It is discretionary with the postmasters of the large cities if they remain closed or open again after five o'clock. Our holidays are rather few in this country, and it does seem as though Washington's Birthday might be added to the limited list.

CONCERNING POSTAGE.

WASHINGTON, D. C. May 19th.—Charles Hutchins, of Boston, appeared before the Senate Postal Committee, to-day, in regard to a change in the law respecting rates of postage of second-class mail matter at letter-carrier offices. By the present law, he says that the postage on monthly periodicals, when delivered by carriers in the city where published, is from five to thirty-five times as much as when transported to any other part of the country, including free delivery at all other carrier offices, or from five to thirty-five times as much as is charged on weekly papers for delivery in the city where published, or elsewhere. He advocated the passage of the pending Bill making the postage on second-class publications deposited in the letter-carrier office for delivery uniform at 1 cent a pound.

BOYCOTTING POSTMASTERS.

It is said that since the appointment of Democratic postmasters at Fairchild and Porter's Mills, a vigorous boycott has been kept up by the big lumbering concerns at those places. At Porter's Mills the Northwestern Lumber Co. own the principal part of the town and do most of the business of the place. They run a big saw-mill, shingle-mill and planing-mill, and employ several hundred men. Of course their business with the post-office would naturally be quite large. Under the last Administration the postmaster was one of their own employes, and the office was kept in their store. A few months ago Mr. Anderson, of the firm of Anderson & Whipple, dealers in groceries and provisions, a young man of good ability and popular with the people, was appointed to succeed the old postmaster, who had moved to Eau Claire. Since the office was removed from the store of the Northwestern Lumber Co. to that of Anderson & Whipple, the milling company, we are informed, is in the habit of sending about all its mail to the train direct, or to Eau Claire, four miles distant. This, of course, makes quite a reduction in the rather moderate revenues of the office. As the new postmaster appears to be discharging his duties to the satisfaction of the people, it looks like pretty small business for a rich corporation like the Northwestern Lumber Co., to deprive him of a large portion of his legitimate earnings in the line of his duty. The case at Fairchild, where C. N. Foster & Co. run a big lumbering business, resembles, in some respects, that at Porter's Mills. Since the appointment of J. C. Marvin, and the removal of the post-office from Foster's store, the mail matter of that firm and such other as it can control, is, we are informed, given to the postal cars direct. And, as the compensation of the postmaster is graded according to the amount of stamps canceled at the office, this action of Foster's cuts off quite a large slice of Mr. Marvin's salary. Mr. M. is a Knight of Labor, and no complaints in regard to his efficiency as postmaster have reached us. It is all well enough for Republicans to be strong party men, but when it comes to boycotting postmasters who happen to be Democrats or Knights of Labor, it is carrying things pretty far.

INSPECTOR M. A. FISHER recently arrested a dead beat in New Orleans, who had been representing himself as a Post-office Inspector, and by that means secured money from postmasters and others. He has been sent up for three years. In this connection, we may say that no postmaster should permit an unknown person to enter his office, and attempt to "inspect" it unless he first exhibits his commission as a Post-office Inspector. Three cases like that which occurred at New Orleans have been reported, so far, this year.

WHAT THEY SAY.

Letters From Congressmen Concerning the Peters Bill.

We published last month a letter we had addressed to every Member of Congress concerning the Peters Bill, No. 7,474, in which we asked in so many words, whether or not they intended to vote for it when presented to the House. The responses have been exceedingly favorable, even more so than we had reason to expect, and those given are a sample of many others we have on hand. It is hard to ask a man to promise to vote for a measure he is practically unacquainted with, except in a general way, and we are not in the least disheartened that a larger proportion did not commit themselves to the support of the Bill.

"I stated to you when you were here in March, that the trouble about any measure of relief for the third and fourth class postmasters, was the fact that it was presented so late in the session as to greatly endanger the chances for consideration. I have not examined, fully, the Peters's Bill, and the sub-committee having it in charge has not yet reported it. As soon as I can do so I will look into the matter, and when it comes before the Committee I shall give it due consideration. *I feel that some relief should be extended to these officers, but just the measure I have not yet determined.*"—*A. M. Dockery, of Missouri.*

"I have not examined Bill No. 7,474, and don't expect to have time to do so until it comes up for consideration from the committee having it in charge. I believe in doing justice, but until the Bill is presented, examined, and discussed, I cannot say positively what my vote will be."—*C. R. Breckinridge, of Arkansas.*

"You may record my name on the side of the supporters of the Bill."—*H. H. Markham, of California.*

"I am heartily in favor of Judge Peters's Bill, and will give it my earnest support."—*S. C. Millard, of New York.*

"I see no objections to the Peters Bill, and will vote for it."—*Chas. S. Baker, of New York.*

"The Bill to which you refer has been referred to the appropriate sub-committee for investigation and report. When that report is received, it will be considered by the whole committee. I make it a rule not to say in advance of the consideration of any matter by the committee what I will do, and I cannot, therefore, answer your question positively."—*James H. Blount, of Georgia.*

"I am in favor of some amendments to the laws bearing on the subject of compensation to postmasters, for the purpose of removing the inequalities indicated; but the Bill of which you speak is one of the eight or nine thousand introduced into the House with the provisions of which I am not yet familiar. I would favor an enactment such as you say should be introduced, giving postmasters whose compensation is affected thereby credit in the way of commission on first-class matter mailed on railway trains, and thereby render futile the system of boycotting you refer to."—*R. Lowry, of Indiana.*

"I think I shall support the Peters Bill."—*J. McKenna, of California.*

"Will do what I can for the Bill."—*O. S. Clifford, of Dakota.*

"I expect to support House Bill No. 7,474, and do all I can for the success of the same."—*C. C. Bean, of Arizona.*

"I am heartily in favor of most of the provisions of the Bill, and shall give it a hearty support, but think it wise to reserve the right to make some amendments if it can be done to its betterment."—*Horace B. Strait, of Minnesota.*

"I cannot without further inquiry, state whether or not I will support the Bill to which you refer, but will examine it, listen to the debate, and according to my judgment and sense of justice, cast my vote. I have long been of

the opinion that the whole subject of salaries of third and fourth class postmasters should be comprehensively considered, and that the salary-list should be recast, for I have in my mind many cases in which injustice is done them."—*P. A. Collins, of Massachusetts.*

"I have to say that I have not been able to examine into the details of the Bill, but from conversations with Judge Peters, who is regarded as a conservative representative, I am inclined to believe that it is meritorious. If so, it will receive my support."—*John B. Weber, of New York.*

"I am in favor of relief to third and fourth class postmasters."—*R. W. Townshend, of Illinois.*

"I am heartily in favor of the Bill."—*J. C. Burrows, of Michigan.*

"The measure meets with my hearty approval."—*E. H. Conger, of Iowa.*

"I shall give the Bill No. 7,474 a cordial and hearty support. It is a just measure and ought to become a law."—*C. P. Snyder, of West Virginia.*

"It may be possible to secure legislation allowing rent, fuel, light and stationary for third-class officers, but I do not think any change in the compensation allowed for the transaction of money-order business can pass the House."—*Henry H. Bingham, of Pennsylvania.*

"I will support any reasonable measure for the relief of third and fourth class postmasters in the direction suggested in your letter."—*James F. Miller, of Texas.*

"I have examined into the matter during the present session, and can with great pleasure answer in the affirmative."—*W. H. Cole, of Maryland.*

"The Bill about which you write is yet in the hands of the Post-office Committee, but I understand a favorable report is likely to be made very soon to the House. As I understand the Bill it will have my support whenever it comes up."—*F. A. Johnson, of New York.*

"I will vote for our postmaster's Bill of the third and fourth classes with great pleasure."—*Chas. N. Brumm, of Pennsylvania.*

"I see no objections to the Bill of which you write."—*J. Lyman, of Iowa.*

"The Bill is still in the hands of the committee having it in charge, and until it is reported to the House, cannot say how I will vote upon it."—*Fred. D. Ely, of Massachusetts.*

"It affords me pleasure to say that I will vote for the Bill, because I firmly believe it to be just and fair."—*J. H. Murphy, of Iowa.*

"I expect to vote for the Bill."—*J. Romeis, of Ohio.*

"You can place me on the list of those favoring House Bill No. 7,474, introduced by Judge Peters."—*J. B. Wakefield, of Minnesota.*

"I intend to vote for the Peters Bill."—*Wm. Walter Phelps, of New York.*

"I have looked into the matter discussed in your letter, and have come to the conclusion that the Peters Bill to increase the compensation of third and fourth class postmasters is a measure that ought to receive my support. I shall vote for it and aid in any way legitimate and proper to secure its passage."—*Ralph Plumb, of Illinois.*

"I am in favor of House Bill No. 7,474, and expect to vote for it."—*John B. Storm, of Pennsylvania.*

"I can say that I will cheerfully vote for the House Bill No. 7,474, introduced by Mr. Peters."—*J. B. Gilfillan, of Minnesota.*

"I do not know what the provisions of the Bill are to which you refer, but if they are in the line you suggest, simply doing what is just toward a worthy class of public servants, I will support it."—*Benj. Butterworth, of Ohio.*

"Yes, I will vote for the Bill."—*Richard Gunther, of Wisconsin.*

"I have not seen Bill No. 7,474, but I am anxious to relieve third and fourth class postmasters, and I am so thoroughly in sympathy

with what I understand to be its object, that I expect to support the measure. I have long felt that too niggardly a policy prevailed toward these officers, the very ones that stand so close to the people, and in many instances furnish the only means of communication with the outside world. The number of these offices annually discontinued tells the tale—they are simply starved to death."—*H. S. Van Eaton, of Mississippi.*

"I am in favor of Judge Peters's Bill for the relief of third and fourth class postmasters."—*Geo. E. Adams, of Illinois.*

"The Bill to which you refer will doubtless be reported favorably to the House. I am in favor of it and will vote for it both in committee and in the House."—*T. A. Merriman, of New York.*

"I am in full accord with the Bill introduced by my colleague, Mr. Peters, and am satisfied that our entire delegation is the same."—*L. Hanback, of Iowa.*

"I recognize the necessity of some legislation looking to the relief of third and fourth class postmasters, and shall be glad to do whatever I can in that direction. My present purpose is to support the Bill."—*T. C. Me-Real, of Arkansas.*

"I am warmly in favor of the Peters Bill to increase compensation of postmasters of the third and fourth classes, and hope to have an opportunity to vote for it."—*J. H. Gallinger, of New Hampshire.*

"I will take pleasure in supporting the Bill of Mr. Peters."—*B. W. Perkins, of Kansas.*

"At this writing I think I shall favor the passage of the Bill."—*B. T. Frederick, of Iowa.*

"I have pleasure in acknowledging the receipt of your letter of the 11th, and answer decidedly in the affirmative."—*Thos. Ryan, of Kansas.*

"As at present advised, I shall favor the increase of the compensation of postmasters of the third and fourth classes, as suggested in the Bill referred to."—*B. J. Hall, of Iowa.*

"I have been inclined to favor the Bill, believing it right in spirit, but am not willing to answer you categorically that I will vote for it. The Bill has seemed to me a good one, and I think I shall probably vote for it."—*R. R. Hitt, of Illinois.*

"I will support the Bill of Mr. Peters, No. 7,474. I think it a just measure, and should receive favorable action."—*G. W. E. Dorsey, of Nebraska.*

"I have received a petition numerously signed, for the increase of pay of third and fourth class P. M.'s. I do not see why it is not just, and shall take pleasure in supporting the measure."—*G. G. Symes, of Colorado.*

"I concur fully with you as to the justice and wisdom of the measure named in your letter, and will cheerfully support it."—*W. C. Cooper, of Ohio.*

"During my service of fourteen years in Congress, I have been on the side of progress in all public affairs, especially in all that relates to the postal service. I shall not change the record I have made, and shall do all I can to promote the interests of the service, and those engaged in it."—*A. C. Harmer, of Pennsylvania.*

"I am strongly in favor of the passage of Mr. Peters's Bill to increase the compensation of third and fourth class postmasters, and shall do all in my power toward securing the success of the measure."—*Frank Lawler, of Illinois.*

"Yes, I am in favor of relief to third and fourth class postmasters."—*Milo White, of Minnesota.*

"Having introduced the Bill to which you refer, and being satisfied that it is a meritorious measure, I have been doing all I could to secure its favorable consideration by the committee. I think I shall be able to secure a recommendation for its passage from the committee, as soon as it can be taken up for final consideration. I think, also, that there is a

desire upon the part of the House to pass the Bill, and if we can get it up for consideration. I think we shall have no trouble."—*S. R. Peters, of Kansas.*

"I have been an active supporter of this measure from the start."—*W. D. Owen, of Indiana.*

"I am heartily in accord with the provisions of the Bill introduced by Mr. Peters, of Kansas, to increase the compensation of postmasters of third and fourth classes. I believe that these postmasters should be placed upon the same footing in the matter of office expenses and clerk-hire as those of the first and second classes."—*John T. Cain, of Utah.*

"Would say that I will vote for the Bill you speak of, and give it my hearty support."—*L. C. Houk, of Tennessee.*

"Yours of the 11th has been duly received. I favor the Bill introduced by Mr. Peters, with slight modifications, and will doubtless be found among its supporters."—*W. C. Oates, of Alabama.*

"Yours of the 11th came while I was in Iowa, and I take the first opportunity to reply. I am in favor of the Bill for the relief of third and fourth class postmasters."—*A. J. Holmes, of Iowa.*

EXTRACTS FROM CORRESPONDENCE.

R. J. HUMPHREY, P. M., POULTNEY, VT., says: Every word you say about the injustice to third and fourth class offices is true.

C. L. WILSON, P. M., MILFORD, TEXAS, sends us, with his best wishes, some very valuable suggestions to be placed in the hands of the National Convention.

J. W. McLARAN, P. M., SEALEY, TEXAS, says: I inclose \$1 for the committee fund. I think they are doing a good work, and should be supported by their post-office friends.

J. C. FOGARTY, P. M., MURDOCK, MINN., in his statement of his money-order business for the month of May gives the number of letters and figures used, as being 1,746, compensation for same, 48½ cents.

EMILY GRIFFIN, P. M., DUNREITH, IND., writes us that, for the months of March and April, in transacting her money-order business, she wrote 118,919 words and figures, and for all this labor was paid the meagre sum of \$8.87.

JOHN J. JAUSEN, P. O. CLERK, ARITIGO, WIS., makes a statement regarding his money-order business which shows that, during one month, in doing that portion of their work, they wrote 13,354 words and 41,040 figures, and received as compensation, \$6.92.

M. R. POTTER, P. M., WELLSTON, OHIO, says, in reference to his money-order business, that, during the first quarter of 1886, he wrote in the money-order and postal-note service 8,327 words and made 16,018 figures, for which his compensation would not exceed six dollars.

W. M. KIMBALL, P. M., LEBANON, N. H., says of his money-order business that, allowing five figures to a word, during one year, he wrote 225,114 words in this service alone, the commission on which was \$90, or about four cents per 100 words—less than one-seventh the price ordinarily paid for so much labor.

F. P. PIERCE, P. M., JONESBORO, IND., says: I am glad to see things moving along in favor of the postmasters as well as they are, though I think it is too bad for three or four hundred postmasters to have to bear the expense while fifty thousand postmasters will be benefited as well as the few who are doing the contributing.

F. P. PIERCE, P. M., JONESBORO, IND., in reference to his money-order business, makes the statement that, during the month of April or twenty-six days, the words written were 17,280, and the compensation for the same about \$3.40; also that the attention, time and clerical work of the money-order business occupied fully one-third of the time.

N. BRUETT, P. M., JEFFERSON, WIS., writes, in reference to the money-order business in his office, that, taking no account of the writing

in the money order itself, the writing of letters of credit or drafts on designated offices for funds where more is paid than received, or the necessary correspondence entailed by the business, the month's work comprises 210,000 words, and that no competent man could afford to do this work alone for \$500 a year.

J. C. HIBBARD, P. M., ATHENS, OHIO, says: We are held down to a third-class office, although the place is a junction of three railroads, making a great deal of distribution; three experienced hands are constantly required; "two star-routes" are run, and the postmaster is expected to look after the distribution of mail-pouches.

J. B. PONDROM, P. M., PILOT POINT, TEXAS, gives the following statement regarding his money-order business for the quarter ending December 31st, 1885: Words written, 9,056; figures made, 5,957, total, 15,013; compensation for same \$12.61; and that, during this period, he remitted at his own risk to his depositing-office the sum of \$2,680.

A. E. MORGAN, P. M., STARKE, FLA., writes that his office was made a money-order office, August 15th, 1881, and that since that time he has issued 4,284 money orders and 1,648 postal-notes. In one week's work are comprised 90,000 words and figures, and, for that amount of labor, he has received during the four years the munificent sum of \$222.70.

G. BELL, P. M., WARRINGTON, FLA., writes us in regard to the free-mail matter forwarded from the various Government Departments. In his office, that mail is equal in bulk to all the other mail, but he receives no compensation whatever for the handling of it. Thinks this matter should be taken up and discussed, and something allowed them for their labor.

E. A. WASSER, P. M., GIRARD, KAN., says: Although I am one of the officials who will soon be relegated to the rear, I inclose postal-note for \$2 to help defray the expenses of the National Executive Committee, and hope they will win in the fight to have third-class offices placed on the same footing as second-class, so far as rent, fuel, etc., are concerned. The demand is certainly a just one.

A. MEERSLIEDT, P. M., LA GRANGE, TEXAS, makes a statement regarding his money-order business which shows that, during the year 1885, his total commissions for issuing 3,310 money orders and 1,016 postal-notes amounted to \$160.18, the number of words and figures written being about 51,600. One-third of a fair compensation for so much labor would have been \$516, or over three times what he did receive.

GEORGE W. DRYSDALE, P. M., BLUE MOUND, GA., sends us his statement for the money-order business for the month of March, which is as follows: Whole number of letters and figures used in making out, recording, addressing envelopes, and making remittances and statements, 5,508; salary for same, \$1.33, which amounts to about one-third of the fees on money orders issued during that period. He opposes the Bill to reduce the fee to five cents for a money order of \$5 or less, but thinks that the fees on larger amounts should be reduced so as to put them on an equality with price paid for bank-drafts.

I. CONNER, P. M., PONCA, NEB., says: Inclosed please find postal-note for \$2, for expenses of committee. If you need more, inform me. It is all wrong, though an indisputable fact, that about one in every ten has to bear all the burden of the others. Yet, if our National Committee are willing to give their time free, to the detriment of their own private business, I shall not complain if I do pay for the benefit of others. I feel that the Convention are to be highly congratulated on their choice of a committee. This is only a fourth-class office, pays less than one thousand dollars per year, and the mail arrives at 7:30 A.M. and 7 P.M., so that the time of one from 6 A.M. to 9 P.M., besides the time of an assistant from 10 A.M. to 10 P.M., is required. The money-order business only pays about ten dollars per quarter. I have eight letter-pouches and three star-routes. Yet I put in

fourteen hours a day, pay my clerk about \$400 per year, and furnish my own office, fuel and incidentals. Who will call this justice?

S. T. BASSETT, P. M., RICHMOND, MO., says: I inclose \$1 to pay expenses of committee. If the 50,000 third and fourth class postmasters will, one in ten, contribute an equal amount, you will have quite a sufficiency of funds for your purpose. If they will not do so, it will be useless for me to contribute more. I realize the fact that we have reached a crisis in our affairs, and that what is done must be done quickly. I am not as sanguine as you seem to be in regard to the willingness of Congress to afford relief. They will probably continue to put us off with flimsy excuses, as heretofore, unless we can impress them with the fact that we are *some* important factors in the affairs of this Government, and that, possibly, it might be as well to *conciliate* us to some extent as the press of the country. Congress usually acts only under the *lash of public opinion*, and public opinion has to be largely manufactured.

SAMUEL A. RISLEY, P. M., WEST PLAINS, MO., gives the following statement in regard to his money-order and postal-note business. During the month of February, he issued and paid money orders and postal-notes, and made remittances for \$5,514.71. In transacting this business he wrote 27,632 words and figures, made 706 impressions with money-order and dating stamps, registered fourteen letters; made four weekly statements; sealed 198 envelopes, and "punched with care," 239 holes. At the close of this period, he was responsible for \$171 in transit, and held in safe at his own risk, \$287.25. For all this labor and responsibility, he received \$10.25, or less than 3½ cents per hundred words for writing alone. He finds, by careful estimate, that the cost to the Department of the blanks and other supplies used by him for this work, did not exceed \$1.06, leaving them a net profit on the work done by him, during that month, of \$13.60.

THE mails may be delayed in their travels, but we trust no postmaster, male or female, will delay in subscribing for this paper. Subscriptions are always in order.

THE gentleman who desires information as to how he can obtain the names of all the lady (*unmarried*) postmasters in Illinois, is informed that he will be compelled to apply to the First Assistant Postmaster-general, but we doubt very much whether he would care to go to the trouble to have the matter looked into. The quickest way would be to address a letter of inquiry to every P. M. in the State, and inquire whether they are male or female, and married or single. Try it on.

THE best-paid class of postal officials is the letter-carriers, and yet they are to be still further provided for by having their day's labor reduced to eight hours. Good heavens! What next? They come before Congress as regular as the Pacific Mail Subsidy Scheme, and still they are not happy. But for *some* reason or other they manage to gather in what they reach for. Their arms must be long, or there is system in their manœuvring. Will postmasters *ever* take a hint?

COLONEL E. P. LINZEE, P. M., at Pierce City, Mo., has come to the front again in the most generous manner, as is his custom. He sent the Memorial Committee a money order of \$5 while it was in Washington, but which was never received, and, in due course of mail, it was returned to him. Upon its reception, the Colonel mailed it to the writer, and stated that he supposed we needed it in our work, and asked us to accept it.

The contribution is received with thanks, but we cannot accept it as a personal gift to us, and have, therefore, given the Committee credit for the same. Colonel LINZEE is a small man physically, but a giant in generosity and liberality, and it affords us great pleasure to record the latest evidence of his interest in the good work. May his shadow never grow dim.

THIRD AND FOURTH CLASS.

The Law Regulating their Compensation.

WE copy from volume 22 of the United States Statutes at Large, page 600, that part of the Act of March 3d, 1883, relating to the compensation of postmasters of the third and fourth class offices:

THIRD CLASS.

Gross receipts, one thousand nine hundred dollars, and not exceeding two thousand one hundred dollars, salary, one thousand dollars.

Gross receipts, two thousand four hundred dollars, and not exceeding two thousand seven hundred dollars, salary, one thousand two hundred dollars.

Gross receipts, two thousand seven hundred dollars, and not exceeding three thousand dollars, salary, one thousand three hundred dollars.

Gross receipts, three thousand dollars, and not exceeding three thousand five hundred dollars, salary, one thousand four hundred dollars.

Gross receipts, three thousand five hundred dollars, and not exceeding four thousand two hundred dollars, salary, one thousand five hundred dollars.

Gross receipts, four thousand two hundred dollars, and not exceeding five thousand dollars, salary, one thousand six hundred dollars.

Gross receipts, five thousand dollars, and not exceeding six thousand dollars, salary, one thousand seven hundred dollars.

Gross receipts, six thousand dollars, and not exceeding seven thousand dollars, salary, one thousand eight hundred dollars.

Gross receipts, seven thousand dollars, and not exceeding eight thousand dollars, salary, one thousand nine hundred dollars.

And, in order to ascertain the amount of the postal receipts of each office, the Postmaster-general may require postmasters to furnish the Department with certified copies of their quarterly returns to the Auditor at such times and for such periods as he may deem necessary in each case.

FOURTH CLASS.

Section 2. That the compensation of postmasters of the fourth class shall be fixed upon the basis of the whole of the box-rents collected at their offices and commissions upon the amount of canceled postage-due stamps (provided for in section two hundred and seventy of the Revised Laws and Regulations, edition of eighteen hundred and seventy-nine), and on postage stamps, official stamps, stamped envelopes, postal cards, and newspaper and periodical stamps canceled on matter actually mailed at their offices, and on amounts received from waste paper, dead newspapers, printed matter, and twine sold, at the following rates, namely: On the first fifty dollars or less per quarter, one hundred per centum; on the next one hundred dollars or less per quarter, sixty per centum; on the next two hundred dollars or less per quarter, fifty per centum; and on all the balance, forty per centum; the same to be ascertained and allowed by the Auditor of the Treasury for the Post-office Department in the settlement of the accounts of such postmasters upon their sworn quarterly returns. Provided, That when the compensation of any postmasters of this class shall reach two hundred and fifty dollars for four consecutive quarters each, exclusive of commissions on money-order business, and when the returns to the Auditor for four consecutive quarters shall show him to be entitled to a compensation in excess of two hundred and fifty dollars per quarter, the Auditor shall report such fact to the Postmaster-general, who shall assign the office to its proper class, and fix the salary of the postmaster as provided by section one of this Act: Provided further, That, in no case, shall there be allowed to any postmaster of this class a compensation greater than two hundred and fifty dollars in any one of the first three quarters of any fiscal year, exclusive of money-order commissions, and in the last quarter of each fiscal year there shall be allowed such further sum as he may be entitled to under the provisions of this Act, not exceeding for the whole fiscal year the sum of

one thousand dollars exclusive of money-order commissions.

BALTIMORE'S NEW POSTMASTER.

THE Baltimore Post-office, says the *Sun* of this morning, was yesterday transferred from Mr. I. Parker Veazy to Mr. Frank Brown. The day being a holiday and the office closed, very few were present in the building except the ingoing and outgoing postmasters, the special agents, the heads of departments, and those clerks and messengers whose attendance was necessary for the receiving and dispatching of mails. Mr. James Lawrenson, of Washington, the oldest clerk in the postal service, was in the post-office part of the day during the transfer. He is eighty-three years old, and began when but sixteen years old in the Baltimore Post-office. This was in 1819. The only mistake found in any of the post-office accounts was a shortage of \$1.87 in the postage-due stamps. The transfer extended well into last night, as the agents were making an inspection at the same time. Mr. Brown is the eighteenth postmaster of Baltimore appointed since 1790.—*Washington Post*.

A BAD FAILURE.

THE special-delivery system in connection with the mail-service of this country has had an experimental trial of nearly eight months. It has been as successful in Chicago as anywhere else in the United States, and perhaps a little more so, owing to the combined efforts of the post-office officials to make the best of its numerous defects, and the laudable ambition of Supt. Donovan to knock the persimmon as the most efficient officer in the service. But it has been up-hill work from the beginning. The flaws that were so apparent in the immediate-delivery plan when it was first inaugurated are no less prominent now than they were then, and have proved a negative to the successful building up of the system. The one hundred messenger-boys that were employed at the commencement of the experiment have been reduced to forty, and even with that number the 80 per cent. of the revenue which is allowed for salaries does not pay the boys over \$8 each a month. Supt. Donovan has finally decided to dispense with the services of the messenger-boys altogether and put substitute letter-carriers in their places. He has been figuring on this plan for some time, and thinks the change will not only improve the service, but will benefit the sub-carriers by giving them employment while they are not "subbing" for regular carriers. The plan has been approved by Postmaster Judd and will be put in operation June 1, after which date all special-delivery letters will be carried by men instead of boys. This plan has been successfully operated in New York, where the postmaster refused at the outset to employ boys as messengers.—*Chicago Times*.

ONE MORE GONE.

ANOTHER letter-carrier got his walking-papers yesterday. Watchman Brown, while on duty in the post-office the other night, saw a carrier examining some mail under a light. The man acted in such a suspicious manner that Brown was convinced of his dishonesty, and reported the circumstance to Supt. Donovan. The suspected employe proved to be Robert De Noe, a night collector, who has been in the service since September, 1884. The matter was turned over to the post-office inspectors, who, after a quiet investigation, reported that the watchman's suspicions were well founded, and recommended that De Noe be discharged. He was accordingly told to go.—*Chicago Times*.

ROBBING THE MAILS.

BUFFALO, N. Y., May 11.—A clue to what appears to be a systematic robbery of the city mails was found to-day in the detection of Frank Sipp, Jr., known as Carrier 17, appropriating to his own use money placed in decoy letters and given to him to distribute. He was taken into Postmaster Bedford's office as soon

as he returned from his route and was known to have failed to deliver the decoy letters, where he was searched, and a number of other money letters found on his person. The amount taken is not yet known, but it is thought to be several hundred dollars. So serious had the peculations become, that two specials were sent up from Washington some weeks ago, and they have worked up the case with the above result. Sipp denies his guilt, but the evidence appears conclusive. He was examined before United States Commissioner Strong this afternoon and held to bail.

INEQUALITIES OF POSTAL REGULATIONS.

MR. CHARLES HUTCHINS, of the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions, Boston, will appear before the Senate Committee to-morrow in support of a Bill to regulate rates of postage on second-class matter at letter-carrier offices. He has prepared some striking statistics to show the inequalities of the existing law. The *Missionary Herald*, the oldest monthly magazine in the United States, is published in Boston and has a thousand subscribers in the Boston letter-carrier district. It has about the same number in New York city, including Brooklyn in the delivery. Under the present postal law the Government charges more than twelve times as much for the delivery of the one thousand copies in Boston as for the same number in New York; or it charges as much for the delivery of the thousand in Boston as for the transmission of more than twelve thousand to New York, or to San Francisco, or elsewhere, with the same free delivery at all carrier-offices.

JOKING ABOUT PADDY'S RUN.

WASHINGTON, APRIL 15TH.—When Major Butterworth forwarded to the First Assistant Postmaster-general the petition of citizens of Paddy's Run, O., for a change of name in their post-office, General Stevenson made the change, and then wrote a personal letter to Major Butterworth, which will interest the citizens of late Paddy's Run. Following is the letter:

POST-OFFICE DEPARTMENT,
OFFICE OF FIRST ASST. POSTMASTER-GENERAL,
WASHINGTON, D. C., March 17, 1886.
Hon. Benjamin Butterworth, House of Representatives:

My Dear Sir—I have read with painful interest and solicitude your letter of this date suggesting change of name "Paddy's Run" (post-office) in your native State. There are few requests you could make of me which I would not grant most cheerfully, but I cannot consistently comply with this. The 17th of March seems an exceedingly inappropriate time for such a request. At first blush it seems a reflection upon St. Patrick himself, who upon the day of which this is the glorious anniversary, drove the snakes out of Ireland. A little reflection will convince you that your request is ill-advised.

I regret to discover that you are, to some extent, permeated with the "destructive spirit of the age." "Paddy's Run" is a landmark, and you will readily recall the vengeance dire threatened by the sacred writer against those who destroy the "ancient landmarks." Possibly, however, in the multitude of other sins you will have to answer for, this will give you comparatively little concern.

Within the decade just elapsed, "Lick Skillet," "Hog Wallow," "Slickaway," "Buzzard Roost," and "Hell's Bend" have gone the way of all flesh. You seem to wish "Paddy's Run" to follow suit. It cannot be done. The line must be drawn somewhere. I choose to draw it at "Paddy's Run."

In haste, yours very truly,

A. E. STEVENSON.

GENERAL EDWIN E. BRYANT, Attorney-general for the Post-office Department, is engaged in the preparation of a compilation of Postal Laws and Regulations similar to that of 1879. The work could not be placed in abler hands. General BRYANT was one of the first lawyers of Wisconsin, and is the author of several standard legal publications.

"THE mails are always late," said an old maid, who had been to the post-office for a letter, and was informed that "the mail is late to-day." "Yes," said the postmaster to his assistant, who was making out a money order, "the males have been very late in their attentions to her. She would be satisfied with fourth-class matter."

OUR FOREIGN MAIL SERVICE.

The Postmaster-general's Policy of Paying Sea Postage Only.

SINCE the refusal by the American steamship companies to carry foreign mails for the United States Government on the terms proposed by Postmaster-general Vilas, the question of the efficacy of ocean mail subsidies in securing the very best service attainable has been widely discussed. The necessity of paying liberal subsidies to American steamship companies for carrying the foreign mails has been strongly urged by representatives of those companies, who base their arguments on the desirability of protecting American shipping, as well as the desirability of securing efficient mail service. "Postmaster-general Vilas, however," says the *New York Times*, "still appears to have confidence in his policy of paying the steamship companies sea postage only, in spite of some complaints and intimations that his experiment is fast proving itself a failure."

Renewed interest in this question of ocean mail subsidies is likely to arise from the action of the London Chamber of Commerce, which is reported to have petitioned the British Government recently to support the Canadian Pacific Steamship Line, which proposes to establish a new mail route to Australia and the east. The Pacific Mail Steamship Company, of this city, which ceased carrying United States mails on the 1st of last August, but subsequently resumed its Australian service in accordance with its contract, has made some earnest representations to this Government in favor of paying American steamship companies liberally for mail service.

The clause in the Dingley Shipping Bill, which repealed the law compelling American steamships to carry the United States foreign mails for whatever compensation the Government was willing to pay, went into effect April 1st, 1885. Prior to that date Congress appropriated \$400,000 to compensate the American steamship lines for carrying the foreign mails for the ensuing fiscal year. Those lines were the Pacific Mail, the Ward Line, the Alexandre Line, the United States and Brazil Mail Line, and the "Red D," the last-named being engaged in carrying mails to and from Venezuela. The manner of distributing the appropriation, and the right to withhold a portion of it, were left to the discretion of the Postmaster-general. Mr. Vilas declined to renew the old contracts with the steamship companies on the mileage plan, and offered to pay, instead, both sea and inland postage to all American steamship companies that handled the foreign mails. This offer was refused by all the companies named except the United States and Brazil Mail Line. The Pacific Mail, the "Red D," the Ward Line, and the Alexandre Line stopped carrying the Government mails on August 1st, 1885. Subsequently the Pacific Mail Company resumed its Australian mail service under the binding provisions of its contract with the Government. Up to the present time, therefore, there has been no change in the Australian mail service.

The Postmaster-general, through the superintendent of foreign mails, made the best arrangements that he could to replace the service formerly performed by the dissatisfied steamship companies. In his last report he stated: "Some delays and inconveniences have arisen between New York and Colon, San Francisco and Japan and China, and to the west coast of Mexico, by the refusal of the Pacific Mail Company, and some between New York and Venezuela by the like action of the Red D Company. Except these all the foreign mails are transported either in the same manner or better than than during the past year." The mail service between this country and Brazil, the Argentine Republic, Uruguay, and Paraguay, was not interrupted, as the United States and Brazil Steamship Company accepted the Postmaster-general's terms.

Mails for Japan and China which the Pacific Mail Steamship Company had been carrying were for a while dispatched from New York to London, and thence to their final destination by the overland route, *via* Brindisi, Italy, and by French packets from Marseilles *via* the Suez Canal, alternately. Since September 11th,

these mails have been dispatched from San Francisco on steamers of the Occidental and Oriental Steamship Company. The United States mails for New Zealand, which were also given up by the Pacific Mail Line, are now carried by the Union Steamship Company under a three years' contract with New Zealand. The mails for Venezuela (which average about one thousand pounds of letters per annum), were, prior to August 1st, 1885, dispatched exclusively from New York by steamers of the Red D Line, generally three times a month, but since that time have been sent from New York to Venezuela direct by the Ciudad Bolivar Line once a month, and to the Island of Barbadoes four times a month, to be forwarded thence by steamers sailing every Monday and Saturday from Barbadoes to Venezuela direct. When close connections are made at Barbadoes the time from New York to La Guayra is about eleven days.

Since these new arrangements have been in operation, some complaints have been made at the New York Post-office of delays and inefficient service. No complaints have been made against the Cuban mail service, which is believed to have been very much improved by the change. Soon after the Pacific Mail Company declined to carry the mail to and from Colon, the Post-office Department decided to send all mails for Cuba to Tampa, Fla., from there by steamboat to Key West, and thence by a steamer to sail every Wednesday and Saturday for Havana direct. In pursuance of this plan the railway mail service arranged a mail schedule between New York and Tampa of 58 hours and 20 minutes, and between Tampa and Key West of 26 hours; which made the time occupied in transit between New York and Havana about 94 hours, as against 112 hours occupied by the trip by sea between the same points. Since October 22d last, three mails a week have been sent from Key West, instead of two, as formerly. Last week, the time occupied by the Cuban mails in transit to New York was reduced to 72 hours. The superintendent of the foreign mail service says that it is proposed to reduce the time from New York to Havana to 68 hours, and he adds: "It is expected that more satisfactory mail communication with Cuba will be given than has ever been had heretofore, not only from New York, but especially with regard to correspondence from the Southern and Southwestern States, which will now be forwarded to Key West for dispatch instead of to New York, thereby reducing the time occupied in transit to such an extent that said correspondence will probably be delivered in Cuba in about the same time as would be required to send it to New York."

Mails for the Central and South American ports are now being carried by the Atlas Steamship Company and the New York and Jamaica Mail Line. The Post-office authorities in Washington still believe that before long all the foreign mail service for which this Government pays will be as efficient and prompt as it was before the trouble with the American steamship companies last Summer.

METAPHORICAL.

"I CANNOT write," the maiden said;
"My thoughts they will not flow."
Upon her hand she leaned her head
And glanced up at her beau.

"Why is it thus, oh, sweetest girl?
It seems so very queer!"
Then, brushing back a glossy curl,
"You have a bright eye-dear!"
—*Chicago Telegram.*

A 15-YEAR-OLD MAIL-ROBBER.

DULUTH, MINN., APRIL 13TH.—Ted Labaron, aged 15 years, was arrested to-day for stealing from lock-boxes at the post-office. The robberies have been going on several months, and a large amount of valuable matter has thus been secured. Among the victims were Winston Brothers, Minneapolis contractors, who sent \$2,500 to their manager here, which it is thought was stolen by Labaron.

POST-OFFICE ROBBED.

LITTLE ROCK, ARK., Feb. 24.—The safe of the Argenta post-office was robbed of \$2,000 in money, stamps and papers Monday night.

AN IDAHO POSTMASTER.

POST-OFFICE INSPECTOR MURPHY, for the Northern Pacific division, tells a good story of his experience in Idaho Territory, says an exchange. While making his rounds as inspector, he arrived at a small town in the wilds of that Territory, and going to the only store in the place inquired:

"Where is the post-office in this town?"

The sole occupant of the place looked him over from head to foot, and replied:

"Why, you darned fool, it's right here.

Where did you suppose it was?"

The inspector looked around at the bar with its row of black bottles, the two barrels of sugar and other articles generally found in a backwoods store, but failed to find the post-office department.

"Where is the place that you keep the letters?" he inquired.

"There, in that candle-box. Can't you see anything when it's right afore your nose?"

Mr. Murphy looked into the box, and to his surprise and amusement, found the "post-office," the letters being thrown in promiscuously.

"Where is the postmaster?" he inquired.

"He's gone a-hunting."

"Who attends to the post-office in his absence?"

"The clerk."

"Where is he?"

"Sick."

"Well, who is attending to this post-office to-day?"

"If you're looking for a full-blown postmaster, just gaze on me. I am him to-day."

"Have you been sworn in?"

"Not much; and I don't want to be, nor sworn off either."

This state of affairs shocked the nerves of the worthy inspector, and he told the man that he could not conduct Uncle Sam's business in that style. He was informed that if he did not like it he could call on the postmaster the next day and settle it. The inspector was on hand early next morning and found the postmaster looking like a thunder-cloud.

"So you're the man who inspects post-offices are you? and you don't like my style? All right, stranger," continued he, as he grabbed up the box containing the letters. "I'm a man of few words and much meaning. You just tell that man in Washington they call Uncle Sam to take this d—d, ornery \$25-a-year office and go plum to h—l with it. I ain't postmastering as much as I was." And he "fired" the post-office into the middle of the road, with an invitation to Mr. Murphy to start quick and not look back if he cared to enjoy further good health.

FOR MISUSING THE MAILS.

ST. GEORGE BEST was before Judge Sage for sentence for a second time within a year and a half for using the mails in the sale of obscene literature. Best read a rambling and tiresome defense of himself. His attorney, Major Blackburn, made a plea on his behalf, and an intimation was given the court that Best was of unsound mind. Judge Sage remarked that the methods which Best had pursued were not those of an insane person, but indicated corrupt morals and a depraved taste. The sentence pronounced upon him was five years at hard labor in the Ohio Penitentiary. Best's first sentence was four years, but he was pardoned out at the end of two months by the President. It was stated that he expected a heavier sentence yesterday than he received.—*Cincinnati Commercial Gazette.*

A MAIL-CARRIER'S DESPERATE WORK.

WAVERLY, KY.—Henry McElroy, driver of the mail-wagon, became involved in a quarrel, near King's Mills, with a party of railroad workmen. With a double-barreled shotgun he wounded three of them seriously, and then retreating, fired upon the members of the party. McElroy escaped unhurt, and cut across the country toward Morganfield on foot, leaving the mail in charge of a negro, who finished the journey to Morganfield.

The United States Mail. MONTHLY.

ONE YEAR, - - - - - \$2.00
SIX MONTHS, - - - - - 1.00
SINGLE COPIES, - - - - - 20 CENTS.
TEN COPIES, - - - - - ONE DOLLAR.

JOHN H. PATTERSON, EDITOR.

Remittances should be made to the order of THE UNITED STATES MAIL, and should be by money order, postal note, or registered letter.

THE UNITED STATES MAIL is the only journal in this country, of legitimate circulation, depending entirely upon its merits for public patronage, devoted to the interests of the postal service.

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CHICAGO, 198 LA SALLE STREET.
NEW YORK, 53, 55 AND 57 PARK PLACE.

OUR LAST TRIP TO WASHINGTON.

ON Saturday June 5th, we returned from our last visit to Washington, in the interest of the postmasters' Bill. We were gone a week, and think we were well repaid for the time and trouble expended.

It will be remembered that in our last issue we printed a copy of a letter we sent on May 11th, to every Member of Congress, asking their intentions regarding House Bill No. 7,474. We did not expect replies from all of them, nor even *half* of them; but we knew it would be at least beneficial in calling their attention to the matter, and possibly in the end do good. Extracts from a few of the answers received may be found upon another page.

While we were greatly gratified at receiving so many assurances of support for the Bill, yet we were scarcely prepared for the following letter from Judge PETERS, of Kansas:

"Yours of the 11th inst. is at hand. Having introduced the Bill to which you refer, and being satisfied that it is a meritorious measure, I have been doing all I could to secure its favorable consideration by the Post-office Committee. I think I shall be able to secure a recommendation for its passage from the Committee as soon as it can be taken up for final consideration. I think, also, there is a desire upon the part of the House to pass the Bill, and if we can get it up for consideration, I think we will have no trouble."

The moment we read the above we instantly decided to go to Washington and see if a little *urging* would not be beneficial, and before the sun had set we were on our way to the National Capital.

Arriving there, the first thing to do was to find the exact situation of affairs, which was that the Bill was in the hands of a sub-committee, made up of five members of the House Post-office Committee, as follows:

THOMAS B. WARD, Indiana,
JAMES H. JONES, Texas,
TRUMAN A. MERRIMAN, New York,
STEPHEN C. MILLARD, of New York,
SAMUEL R. PETERS, Kansas.

Judge WARD is the chairman of the committee, and informed us that he was heartily in favor of the Bill, and would not only recommend it to the General Post-office Committee, but would work and vote for it when it came before the House; and inquiry developed the fact that every one of the five gentlemen upon the committee were friendly to it, and would vote for it. The Washington *Post* published a statement that General JONES was opposed to it, but upon calling him out for consultation, we were greatly gratified to learn that it was in error. General JONES said that no one was authorized to place him upon that

side of the question, because exactly the reverse was true; and further, that he was now, and always had been, a friend to the postmasters. As we were fully advised as to the position of the other members of the committee upon the merits of the Bill, of course we were greatly elated to find that they were unanimous in their opinion that it ought to become a law.

Judge WARD told us to request Judge PETERS to write out a recommendation of the Bill, and he would try and get his committee together within a few days, and take up the matter and pass upon it.

No Bill can hope for favorable consideration by a House committee, unless the sub-committee having it in charge recommends it to the general committee for passage; and, likewise, no Bill can hope for favorable consideration by the House, unless the general committee to which it was originally consigned recommends it for passage.

We were also informed that there was not any doubt but that the General Post-office Committee would recommend our Bill to the House for favorable consideration, and that if it ever got *before the House, it would pass in five minutes*. We were told this not only by some of the Post-office Committee, but by other members of the House, and also by newspaper correspondents, who claimed to know the prevailing feeling regarding the Bill. We did not meet a person who expressed any doubt of the measure going through. And not only that, but the justice and fairness of the proposed change was generally fully admitted on all sides. Some, of course, were careful in their expressions, notably Mr. BLOUNT, of Georgia, the Chairman of the Post-office Committee. We spent an hour very pleasantly with him at his room at the National Hotel, and our conversation covered all phases of postal affairs. He is an extremely cautious and prudent man, and may be regarded as a "conservative" upon all questions affecting public interests. Fourteen years of Congressional life have learned him many lessons. He is a man of honest convictions, and we do not believe he will vote away the people's money for the sake of political popularity. Once convinced of the *justice* of a measure, he will vote for it; admitting, of course, that it will be for the best interests of the Government that it should become a law. Mr. BLOUNT would not indicate how he would vote upon the question, for he said that it had not come up for consideration before the committee, and he had not made up his mind. We may take comfort from the fact, however, that he is a friend of the postmasters, and will do what he thinks is *right*.

Now of the general friendliness of the Post-office Committee toward our scheme we may feel assured; and we may count, also, upon the fact that the committee will recommend it to the House, and that it will pass when it comes up for a vote.

The inquiry would naturally arise, then, what is the cause of the delay? Why don't it pass at once? Why the hesitation? and we will attempt to answer it:

It is now late in the session, and the post-office appropriation Bill has not been fully passed upon by the Senate and the House; and, besides that, there are some eight thousand other Bills that have been introduced, but not acted upon, even by the sub-committees to which they have been referred, and every member of Congress who has introduced a Bill is always trying his utmost to get it through, and to his mind there are no measures before the House half so important as his. Now, when every member feels that way,

some slight idea of the trouble in getting a Bill through may be imagined, but it cannot be fully realized. The entire business may be likened to a checker-board. One move may win or lose a game, and *one* man may defeat our Bill. It is a rule of the House that no Bill not on the calendar can be considered by the House, *except by unanimous consent*, and then only on Monday of each week. Now our Bill, of course, is not on the calendar, for it has not even been reported to the House, and it cannot be placed on the calendar until it has been so reported. When a Bill is once on the calendar, it requires *unanimous* consent to take it up out of its turn and consider it. If one crank objects (and there are two regular objectors in the House), there is no power that can save it; it must be passed for another week, and may never be called up again until in regular order. And it must be borne in mind that each and every member is striving for the special privilege of having his particular Bill called up on each and every Monday, and when they are all striving for the same end, the wonder is that anybody ever gets there at all. Now, if there were no measures before the House, except those pertaining to the postal service, we could get our scheme through in a jiffy, but when there are Bills there by the ton, pertaining to almost every question that can affect human interests, from regulating the tariff to regulating the price of butter, why, one can figure up the chances of the "postmasters' Bill."

The above are some of the parliamentary troubles we must surmount, in order to bring No. 7,474 to a successful issue. While they may seem to be insurmountable, yet we have so many friends in Congress that we *might* win the day in spite of them.

Our opinion is, however, that if our Bill is not acted upon by the House at this session, *political* conditions will be the cause. While both parties are anxious and willing to conciliate and please the postmasters, yet neither of them may care to go before the country as the promoters of a measure to take \$800,000 out of the Treasury, and hand it over to you. The Democrats are sworn to *economy and reform* in all expenditures of the public funds. They got into power upon that plea, and the leaders of the House are trying to carry out the principle. It may be that they don't mean it; that it is only a sham to deceive the people until *after the Fall elections*; and when we say *they*, we mean both parties, for as the Congressional elections come again this year, both the Democrats and Republicans will use their best endeavors to carry the House, and if they can make any votes it is *possible* that they will defer rendering justice to you until those elections are held. While that is all wrong, and not only that, but grossly unjust, yet it may be that *politics* will keep you out of the money that rightfully belongs to you.

The parliamentary and political environments we have attempted to lay before you were hinted to us as possible impediments to the passage of our Bill during this session, but they are only *surmises*, and may not operate against us at all. We hope they will not, but we thought it best to give both sides of the question, so that we may be prepared for any outcome, no matter what it may be. If success crowns our efforts, well and good; but if we are temporarily defeated by *delay*, then we will know the cause of it.

The outlook is good. We are encouraged more than at any other time during the progress of this struggle. We are climbing up the mountain-side, and if we have no backsets, we will soon be upon the crest. "Jordan is a hard road to travel," but having gone over the

route once, we can "get up and dust" on the second trip.

It is scarcely material to report all we did while in Washington, or relate all that was said to us by Congressmen and others. It is sufficient to say that we did all we could, and feel very comfortable over the outlook. We may be disappointed in having the Bill acted upon during this session, but if it goes over until next Winter, we are sure of a victory.

We stated above that the amount of money involved would amount to \$800,000. The figures are not the result of guesswork, but of close calculation by *experts* in the Auditor's office of the Post office Department. We went there and requested their aid in determining the question, and we believe that the amount stated is not far from what the change will cost the Government. If we *average* the amount allowed the third-class officers at \$250 each, the total would foot up \$438,250. It was said that there were not over 7,000 fourth-class officers that would be affected by the law, and placing the average at \$50, the total would amount to \$350,000.

Now it cannot be denied but that this is a large sum of money, and the announcement will stagger some of our friends; but, large or small, you ought to have it, and we propose to aid you in getting it.

THEY ALL WANT IT.

The publishers of certain Eastern monthly newspapers and magazines are making a move upon Congress for the same privileges and facilities in the transportation and circulation of their publications that are accorded the weeklies, and the Bill of Senator DAWES, to which we called attention in April, is the result.

We are opposed to the Bill upon the same grounds that we oppose according extraordinary privileges to the weeklies.

Weekly papers are deliverable at letter-carrier offices, at the rate of one cent per pound, and the publishers of the monthlies want the same privilege. They claim that if the Government can afford to deliver a weekly publication at one cent per pound four times every month, there is every reason why it should deliver another publication once every four weeks at the same rate, and to our notion the proposition is incontrovertible. There should not be such a distinction made in extending favors to publishers. If the *Texas Siftings* had five thousand subscribers in the City of New York, the publisher could pile them into the post-office in that city, and have them delivered by the letter-carriers at second-class rates; but if we had as many subscribers to our journal in Chicago, we would be compelled to pay one cent per copy, or \$50 per month. It don't make any difference how poor and miserable a paper may be, if it is gotten out *weekly*, the Post-office Department is placed at its disposal, and every assistance is rendered to inflict itself upon the public. It would seem that the Government offers a premium to publishers to trouble the postal authorities four times a month instead of once. It says, in effect, that if we will publish our paper fifty-two times a year instead of twelve, then it will come to our rescue, and deliver our five thousand papers in Chicago at the rate of one cent per pound; but if we continue it as a *monthly*, then it cannot afford to deliver our papers by its carriers at a less figure than *one cent per copy*, or eight times as much!

There is certainly no justice or reason in such discrimination in favor of weekly papers. The publishers of monthlies or quarterlies should receive just as much encouragement from the Government as it extends to those

who publish weeklies, and if the present rate on second-class matter is to be continued, then we say treat all publishers alike; put them all upon the same footing; make every tub stand upon its own bottom.

We are not, however, in favor of the law as it is. If the rate was *two* cents per pound upon second-class matter, then it could be delivered at that figure at letter-carrier offices or elsewhere; but as long as it is just half what it ought to be, then letter-carriers should not be loaded down with mail matter of that class, *at the office of publication*.

The New York *Police Gazette* may have five thousand subscribers among the saloon-keepers of that city, but as its vileness is thrust upon the public every week, the Government comes forward and accords it the most extraordinary privileges in the matter of mail facilities; but if any of the splendid monthlies in New York want to reach their city subscribers by mail, a most unjust rate is charged for the service.

But what we want is the old rate restored, and all publishers treated alike, and Chairman BLOUNT should see to it that it is done, or he should speedily make an effort to equalize the law. This is a democratic country, and every man should be treated by the law-making power as being free and equal.

If the eight-hour Bill of the letter-carriers goes through, it will only cost the Government about \$1,365,000. We wonder what our gray-coated friends will strike for next Winter.

In just about one-fifth of all the mail received at our office from postmasters, the *State* is omitted, and in many cases the postmark is so faint that the mailing office cannot be determined. This causes us much annoyance and trouble, and often prevents subscribers from receiving their papers. Their names, also, are given so poorly that we cannot enter them correctly. Every postmaster should use a printed letter-head in his correspondence. The Post-office Department expects it, and it always facilitates matters to do so.

To give the letter-carriers almost a million and a half would scarcely be a fair divide. It would not give the postmasters a *smell*, even.

A MICHIGAN P. M. who transferred \$50 from his "postage" fund to his "money-order" fund, in order to pay a money order for that amount, wants to know how he can get it back again. If he will read Section 1,079 of P. L. & R., he will see that it can be done without any trouble. He can do so and note it on his weekly statement.

MAIL-CARRIERS are not permitted to deliver letters to the persons addressed, but must deposit them in the post-office.

BUSINESS men or other persons have the privilege of mailing their letters at any post-office they may desire, but a mail-carrier cannot receive such matter to deposit it at another post-office than where it should properly be deposited, when they know it is done *systematically and regularly*, as a means of curtailing the revenues of that office. In all cases, casual or other mail matter must be delivered by the carrier to the *nearest* post-office on his route.

If the free delivery goes on at its present rate, it will bankrupt the National Treasury.

THERE has never been a session of Congress since the free-delivery system was inaugurated that the letter-carriers have not come forward for "relief" of some kind. Will they *never* let up?

SECOND-CLASS MATTER.

It is not improbable that Chairman BLOUNT, of the House Post-office Committee, may introduce a Bill restoring the rate on second-class matter to two cents per pound. We tried to talk him into the idea during our recent visit to Washington, and hope we succeeded. It is perfectly preposterous that the Government should carry the millions of tons of newspapers published in this country at present rates. It cannot be done, except at a loss, and we do not accept the theory that newspapers, any more than merchandise, should be transported in the mails at the expense of the National Treasury. The rate was reduced upon the supposition that newspapers and magazines were an *educating* and *refining* force, and that the Government could afford to do so because of the influence for good it would have upon the people. That is true in part, but not in whole, and the theory is liable to inflict upon the National Treasury so many burdens that it may collapse.

To say that the newspapers are educators to such an extent, and especially upon the side of *right*, that they should be carried in the mails far below cost, is absurd. If forty per cent. of all of them were to suspend publication next month, we have no hesitation in saying that the public would be benefited thereby. To regard the loads of trash and filth now thrust upon the public in the form of newspapers as *educators*, is such a perversion of the facts that we cannot understand why Congress was so stupid as to accept such nonsense. The mass of newspapers, as at present conducted, are educators in crime, in dishonesty and in political debauchery, and are pernicious in their influence upon the public mind, and ought not to be carried in the mails at such a sacrifice of the public funds. The business of journalism should stand upon its own merits the same as all other occupations, and the frequent calls it is making upon Congress only show its weakness, in the estimation of the public. It has not been long since a law was framed to saddle upon letter-carriers the duty to deliver weekly newspapers at the office of publication at *second-class rates*, which were then two cents per pound. That was scarcely more than accomplished before another combined effort was made to get the rate reduced to *one* cent. It is one concession after another, and it will not be long ere a Bill will be introduced fixing it at a half cent, and then, when that shall have been done, the next move will be for *free circulation* in the State where published.

Now, unless there shall come an end to all this kind of business, we are liable to carry it too far, and fasten upon the postal service of the country the most grievous wrongs. Let Congress become impressed with the fact that journalism is a *profession* and a *business*, the same as that of selling drygoods and groceries, and that it is entitled to no more consideration than any other avocation.

We beg that Mr. BLOUNT will come to the front, and show his independence by introducing a Bill restoring the old rate to second-class matter. Justice demands that it should be done.

It costs the Government \$150,000 a year to give the letter-carriers their fifteen days' leave of absence without loss of pay.

WHAT we are anxious to see is that the Post-office Department shall be self-sustaining, and the way to do it is to reduce the free-delivery system to practical usefulness, raise the rates on second-class matter, and quit the dead-head business generally.

THE MEETING OF THE NATIONAL COMMITTEE.

It will be seen from a notice elsewhere that a call has been made for a meeting of the National Committee. It was not done at our suggestion, even, but we approve of it, and hope there will be a large attendance. There are many matters of importance to come before it, affecting the interests of third and fourth class postmasters. Of course, it cannot be expected that all the members will be present, but such as can make it convenient are urged to put in an appearance. Those who desire the editor of this paper to act for them are invited to send him a request to that effect.

Probably the most important matter to come up for consideration will be the subject of the Postmasters' Mutual Benefit Association and the organization of State Associations for the furtherance of the interests of the postal service.

There should be a carefully selected Committee of Five on Postal Legislation to watch Congress, and see that no unwise, ill-timed and injurious laws are passed without the protest of the committee. Its province should also extend to the management of all Bills proposed by the late Convention or by the National Committee.

It is also possible that the idea of purchasing THE UNITED STATES MAIL may come up. We are in favor of turning this paper over to the committee, and thus place it in a position to secure funds to carry on its work. The fact has been demonstrated that it is not feasible to depend upon contributions for means to carry on the work before us; but we do think that if the committee owned the paper, and that if postmasters were appealed to subscribe upon the theory that the profits, whatever they were, would be devoted to the cause, they would respond, and that the committee could raise \$5,000 within sixty days.

While we hope that we enjoy the good will and kindly esteem of postmasters, yet we cannot but think that the paper would prosper better under the control of the National Committee than our own, and that postmasters would take more interest in it if its ownership was vested as we suggest.

If the change is made, we shall do exactly as we stated last month, edit the paper for twelve months without charge; that is, if a new editor is not desired. And, too, if the committee take the paper, it will be necessary to select a Publication Committee to take charge of its business interests.

We are glad to announce that third and fourth class postmasters have been coming up to the scratch lately with much more unanimity than heretofore, as some five hundred have subscribed within the last two weeks; but still, if that good luck continued through the year, we would be willing to make any sacrifice for the good of the cause, and retire from the field.

If every subscriber to THE UNITED STATES MAIL would take the trouble to secure us one new reader, we would feel comfortable.

WHENEVER a letter-carrier don't see what he wants, he asks for it.

THE salaries of postmasters of first, second and third class offices are adjusted once every two years, and, in special cases, on the application of the postmaster, as much oftener as the Postmaster-general may deem expedient. No change is made in the salary, however, until the first day of the quarter following the order of the Postmaster-general, increasing or diminishing it. The Kansas postmaster will please note this.

ANSWERS TO CORRESPONDENTS.

OUR readers will find this Department of our paper of great value and utility in their offices. The answers given may be relied upon as absolutely according to the Law and Regulations of the Department. They are prepared by the Hon. J. M. McGrew, of Washington City, who was for seventeen years the Auditor of the Post-office Department and one of the best-informed men in the country in postal affairs. He is now practicing law in that city, and makes the collection of claims against the Government a specialty, and we take pleasure in commending him as a gentleman of the highest character and standing at the Bar.

Our friends will please not hesitate to ply their questions pertaining to the service, as we are anxious to make this a feature of our paper.

THE MONEY-ORDER BILL.

THE Bill to reduce the fees on money orders of \$5 or less from eight to five cents is still hanging in the Senate, and we understand that it will not pass. It would be a shame, and an outrage for that scheme to go through. Any man who is able to pay five cents for a money order is equally able to pay eight. To reduce the fee would not increase the business one per cent., while it would cut off almost \$100,000 of the revenue from the system.

The most sensible way to increase the business of the money-order system would be to lower the fees on the larger orders, and thus cut off a part of the business that now goes to the banks in consequence of it. No man, or at least, the generality of men, will buy a money order for any amount over \$50, when he can buy a bank draft for half the sum charged by the Government. There is no sense in such excessive fees on large orders when, in point of actual expense, it costs no more to issue a money order of fifty cents than it does of \$50. The trouble to the postmaster would simply be in the handling of the funds, and, as he receives no more compensation for issuing a money order of \$50 than \$5, there is no good reason for charging the public such an excessive fee as is now levied. If the fees on the small orders are continued at eight cents, and if the rate on all orders on sums of \$20 and over were reduced to a competing point with the banks, the profits of the system would quickly run up to a half million dollars per annum.

The plea of reducing the fees for the benefit of the people is a subterfuge to make votes. It is simply a political job in the interest of party. Both parties are robbing the Treasury upon the shallowest of pretenses.

THE talk about the letter-carriers being the hardest-worked employes in the postal service is all bosh.

A POST-OFFICE in New York has been named "Folsom" in honor of the President's bride. We suppose the first male to arrive will be Grover, Jr.

SENATOR PLUMB thinks postmasters are sufficiently paid their services. Senator VEST says PLUMB is a poker-player, that he has worked all night at cards. Perhaps, if postmasters played poker, they would not require any salary at all.

If we would succeed in the business we have in hand in the interest of third and fourth class postmasters, we suppose it will be necessary to "keep a stiff upper lip."

THE LETTER-CARRIERS.

THE following letter was sent every member of Congress on June 15th. While we would not antagonize the letter-carriers under other circumstances, yet we feel justified in doing so at present, as they may stand in the way of House Bill No. 7,474.

CHICAGO, June 15th, 1886.

DEAR SIR—The telegraph brings the information that the Senate has passed a Bill fixing the day's work of letter-carriers at eight hours, and also that the House Post-office Committee has recommended the same measure to the House for passage.

This is news of the most surprising character, and I deem it my duty to enter a protest against it before it is too late.

There is no earthly reason why such a Bill should pass. The duties of a letter-carrier are not so exhausting that they require such relief. The position calls for a person of only ordinary intelligence and physical endurance. While they are apparently on duty many hours during the day, yet the greater portion of their time is spent in the post-office, arranging and assorting their mail, which can scarcely be considered in the light of labor.

The letter-carriers are a most worthy class of public servants, and deserve well at your hands, but I submit that you have already conferred upon them the most generous legislative enactments. Almost as regularly as Congress convenes, they appear before you for some measure of relief. Their salaries have been readjusted three times, and last Winter they made an effort to secure thirty days' leave of absence during each fiscal year without loss of pay, and you gave them fifteen. That one item costs the Government \$150,000 per annum.

Their present effort is in the line of less work without reduction of salary, and, according to the figures presented by the Postmaster-general, if the Bill becomes a law, instead of the service being performed by 4,847 carriers, 7,035 would be required, which would entail upon the Department an additional expense of \$1,344,822.

Gentlemen, are you ready for such a useless waste of the public funds? Are you willing to squander almost a million and a half of dollars for the sake of appeasing the appetites of a lot of men who want the earth? How long do you propose to continue your acts of charity and benevolence toward the letter-carriers? Is the Treasury of the United States to be placed at their disposal? Pray turn your attention to some meritorious class of servants in the postal service?

The postmasters of the third and fourth classes, 51,000 of them, are interested in House Bill No. 7,474. They have never before, in the history of the Government, appeared before you for relief of any kind. That Bill, I understand, has the approval of the entire sub-committee to which it was referred, and I am informed that it will undoubtedly be recommended by the general Post-office Committee of the House. The most careful estimates place the expenditure of that measure at \$800,000 or less.

Why, I ask you, should a handful of letter-carriers be presented with a bonanza in the shape of \$1,344,822 when there are 51,000 postmasters anxiously waiting for \$800,000. Would it be fair or just to pass such a Bill?

I beg you to pause before you place yourselves upon record as being in favor of such an expenditure of the public funds!

In this connection permit me to solicit the passage of the "Postmasters' Bill," and thus render justice to the men in the postal service who bear the responsibility and perform the labor which entitles them to your favorable consideration.

Very respectfully,

JOHN H. PATTERSON,
EDITOR UNITED STATES MAIL.

If it is possible to defeat the eight-hour business of the letter-carriers, we intend to do it.

We have received a postal card on which is plainly printed: "In God we Trust." There is no name, and the post-mark is so dim that we cannot discover from whence it came. The sentiment is all right. We trust in God, too, for light and air and sunshine, and shade and Summer and Winter, and seed time and harvest, but we don't trust Him for grub, and the postmaster who expects God to raise his salary will get left. He may prepare the conditions under which we may carry our point, but, unless we get up and hustle, those conditions will be of no value. The men who prosper are those who bestir themselves.

THERE is a post-office in Ohio named "Anna" and one in Illinois called "Flora," and all the good, able-bodied Democrats in both places are after them. If they only knew how much trouble there is in "running" them, they would cease in their efforts, and try for an easier job.

MONEY-ORDER FEES.

If the venerable head of the Money-order System is desirous of becoming a public benefactor and a promoter of the business he has in charge, he should reconstruct the fees on money orders of \$15 and over. If it costs the Government no more to issue a money order of \$100 (*and it don't*) than it does of \$5, why, in the name of all that is good and great, should the enormous fee of forty-five cents be put upon it?

Can anybody tell?

The postmaster who issues a large order receives no greater compensation than if it was a small one. He is entitled to his little 3½ cents no matter whether it is for \$5 or for \$100. The responsibility and care necessary in the large transaction count for nothing in the eyes of the Government, and Uncle Samuel steps in and pockets the enormous profits with all the ease and dignity and grace of the lion.

Now, *where* do the profits go to that are afforded by the large orders?

First, they go to make up the loss sustained on the small orders.

Second, they go to swell the revenues of the Money-order System, and to contribute to the fame of its able and distinguished superintendent as a *financier*.

It is admitted at the Department that the cost to the Government for the issuing of a money order of any sum, large or small, is but eleven cents, seven of which go to the postmasters who issue and pay.

Now, if it costs no more to issue an order of \$100, why should the public pay a net profit of thirty-four cents upon the larger amount? Why not scale the fees to reasonable figures so as to *induce* business that is now *driven* to the banks? No man will pay forty-five cents for a money order of \$100 when he can purchase a bank-draft of the same amount for twenty or twenty-five cents.

The average of all money orders issued is less than \$10, and it is therefore quite apparent that the Department is sustaining a loss of three cents on the bulk of all its money-order business. If there is any financial skill exhibited in that arrangement, we are too dull to see it.

The thing to do is to charge ten cents on money orders of \$10 or less, and scale the rate on the large ones from ten cents to twenty-five cents. If that was done, it would increase the money-order business fifty per cent. the first year and seventy-five the second.

We also want the postmaster to receive more liberal compensation for his work, say one-third of the fee charged for issuing. He would then receive 8½ cents for an order of \$100, instead of 3½, as at present. The average of his fees would be about five cents, which is something like what it ought to be. To thrust so much work and responsibility upon him without adequate compensation is neither fair, just nor wise.

We mark this subject to be continued.

If persistency was a jewel, the letter-carriers would have a sufficiency to deck a crown. They never let up.

"If at first you don't succeed, try, try again!" That's the motto.

A LADY postmaster, who has canceled more matter than her sales of stamps amount to, wants to know how she is to make out her quarterly account? She should make it out in the usual way, according to the *facts*, and if it should appear that the Department is in debt to her, the Auditor will send her a draft for the amount, whatever it may be.

THE TREASURER'S REPORT.

AS A MEETING of the National Executive Committee has been called for at an early date in July, we have decided to defer the publication of the names of the contributors to the *expense fund* until our next issue, which will enable us to make our report to the committee before publication, and also to have our accounts examined and certified to. We propose to make an exhibition of all the details of our work.

WHAT a letter-carrier won't take isn't worth carrying off.

We would judge, from appearances, that the letter-carriers propose to "hog the persimmon."

PEOPLE are often advised to "brace up," and we begin to think it is a "pious idea" to do so, as "it is very often darkest just before the break of day." The situation of affairs in regard to the postmasters' Bill is a case in point.

A MAN named I. B. STOUT wants to be postmaster at Cleveland, Ohio; but whether he is "stout" enough with the President to make the rifle, remains to be seen. STOUT says if there is anything in a name he is bound to win; if he fails, he can change his initials.

SINCE the Senate passed the Bill fixing the days' work of letter-carriers at *eight hours*, they have all broken out into a smile so broad and deep that it is difficult to tell where their mouths begin or end.

THE letter-carriers are giggling so heartily over their success in the Senate that they are in danger of exploding. We advise them, however, to keep their hands upon their escape valves, and not blow off too long or too loud.

How DOES "Yum Yum" strike you as a name for a post-office?

THEY say the *males* are always late in some towns, that they never arrive until near morning, and then appear as if they had been ditched.

DAYLIGHT begins to creep over the Eastern hills, and if Congress will only brace up and do its duty, the sun will shine.

NO THIRD-CLASS postmaster, who is not so minded, need allow handbills, or posters of any kind, to be stuck up on the walls of their offices. This is in answer to an inquiry from Connecticut.

A TEXAS postmaster is informed that neither a third nor fourth class postmaster is required to procure a leave of absence from the Department for a few days, if, in going, he leaves competent assistants to run his office.

LETTER-RATES of postage are charged on architects' drawings if they contain any writing whatever. Mere line drawings would be at third-class rates.

IN our notice of "Convention Beauties" last month, we stated that Mr. A. G. LACKEY, of Marshall, Mo., was a new appointee. We were in error, as he is a pronounced Republican, and is as firm in the faith as ever. He is continued in office because his patrons desire him as postmaster, and because he has not made himself offensive. Mr. LACKEY has taken great interest in the cause for which we are laboring, and has shown himself to be energetic and public-spirited.

THE GUIDE FOR 1886-7.

THE contract for the publication of the "Official Postal Guide" for next year, commencing with the August number, was let to Messrs. Callaghan & Co., of Chicago, for the sum of \$19,530. There were but three bidders in all, Messrs. J. B. Lippincott & Co., of Philadelphia, The Sunnyside Printing Co., and Messrs. Callaghan & Co. The bid of the first named was \$23,885.50, and the second was \$24,194.20. The contract calls for 62,000 copies of the January "Guide," and the same number of each monthly edition.

SENATOR COKE.

SENATOR COKE, in a note to Mr. E. B. Jones, P. M. at Stephenville, Texas, under date of May 18th, says: "I am in favor of the Bill, and will give it earnest support when it comes up. Of this you may rest assured." Good for Senator COKE. If the postmasters of Kansas will take Senator PLUMB in hand and convert him to their support, they will have won over a most bitter and remorseless enemy. Put him on your "list."

It's a cold day when the letter-carriers get left.

THIRD and fourth class matter should be deposited in post-offices, and not mailed on postal cars.

THE use of all kinds of inks for the canceling of stamps is not permitted. The Department has adopted a standard ink for general use, and all offices are supplied with it.

We are glad to hear that the Bill of Senator DAWES, allowing *all* second-class matter to be delivered at letter-carrier offices, including offices of publication, *will not pass*.

THE contract for furnishing post-route maps for the Post-office Department for the ensuing year has been let to Messrs. HOEN & Co., of Baltimore, for the sum of \$15,500.

ANY postmaster who is opposed to more pay under the Bill now before Congress can, if he is so minded, turn it over to the Government, in case it becomes a law.

WE believe in the Free Delivery when it is confined to its proper limits, but when spread out to take in cities of ten thousand population, we do not. It then becomes a burden to the Treasury of the United States. Thirty thousand would be a good point to draw the line at, but fifty thousand would be better.

THE address of Postmaster-general VILAS, delivered at the Academy of Music, New York, on the evening of Decoration Day, is said to be one of the most beautiful specimens of oratory and word-painting ever listened to by an audience in that city. General VILAS had a grand theme to discuss, and he was at his best. The impression is now prevalent that he has no superior in this country as a platform speaker.

THE wife of a certain postal clerk, running into Cincinnati, claims to know, a month in advance of all Republican postal clerks, who are to get the grand bounce. The trouble with that woman is she shoots off her mouth too much, and is altogether too previous upon all questions and upon all occasions. The best thing she can do is to crawl inside of her mouth, and sit down upon her tongue, and give it a rest. Women who wear their husbands' breeches should be careful how they jabber.

FREED UNDER THE DACKIN CASE DECISION.

HENRY T. WRIGHT, formerly assistant postmaster of Racine, has been discharged from the Chester Penitentiary on a writ of habeas corpus by Judge Gresham. He was convicted in Milwaukee in October, 1883, of embezzling \$412 from the money-order division of the post-office. The prosecution in this case was by information, and not by indictment. He pleaded guilty, and was sentenced to five years' imprisonment. His petition for a writ of habeas corpus was based on the late decision in the Mackin-Gallagher case, which held that an infamous crime must be proceeded against by indictment, and not by information. Judge Gresham decided that the crime of which Wright was convicted was infamous, and since it was not denied that he was convicted on an information, he had no alternative but to discharge him from custody. The fact that he pleaded guilty made no difference, since, if the court had no jurisdiction, his pleading guilty did not give it such. Wright appeared to be very happy on regaining his freedom. He had two years yet to serve.

ONE of "The American Postmasters' Handy Records," advertised in this paper, has been sent to us for inspection, and we unhesitatingly pronounce it an excellent book for fourth-class offices, and we say, Send and get one.

THE postal clerks are making a strong fight for back pay, for more pay, for less work, and for everything that will add to their comfort and peace, and they are not at all backward about it, either. They don't twist their mouths and faces up as if castor oil was being poured into them.

A POSTMASTER out in Nebraska, who runs a cigar store in connection with the post-office, wants to know what he can do to compel those who owe him for cigars to "pay up." Why, report 'em to the Postmaster-general and have him send out the Chief Post-office Inspector to go for them.

THERE are a few postmasters who are conscientiously opposed to receiving any compensation over and above that which is now allowed. We do not think the increase should be forced upon that class of Christians, in case we gain our point, and the Bill becomes a law. If it is, they might donate it to some neighboring lunatic asylum or Home for Idiots, Too Sweet to Live.

THERE is one thing more than all else that gives a newspaper power and influence, and that is circulation. If forty thousand postmasters in the United States out of the fifty-three thousand in office would subscribe for THE UNITED STATES MAIL, we would be in a position to render the best of service to the fraternity. Well, even that is not an impossible thing. It could be done in thirty days if our friends would help us.

A POSTMASTER out in Arkansas, who had been convicted of stealing letters, was brought up for sentence, and on being asked by the Judge if he had anything to say why sentence should not be pronounced upon him, said: "I have nothing special to say, your honor, except that you ought not to send me to the penitentiary, as it would interfere with my official duties to go there." "That may be so," said the Judge, "but perhaps the Postmaster-general will give you a leave of absence for ten years."

A LETTER TO SENATOR WILSON.

CHICAGO, June 17th, 1886.

HON. JAMES F. WILSON, Washington, D. C.:

DEAR SIR.—I notice from the morning papers that you have again called up your Bill for a change of rate on fourth-class matter, and I am very glad that you have done so. You understand the situation far better than I do, but yet I am so thoroughly convinced of the error of ever reducing fourth-class postage to 1 cent per ounce, that I am astonished that Congress could have committed such a blunder. There is no reason in the world why the Government should perform any service at a loss, and the tremendous deficiencies in the revenues of the Post-office Department only show what a serious mistake has been made in that direction. People wonder why there was a deficiency of \$8,000,000 last year, and to the general public it seems unexplainable, but to any person who has studied the situation it is plain enough. The extension of the letter-carrier system; the reduction of postage on second-class and fourth-class matter, along with general stagnation in business, is what has done the work, but it would seem that the folly of serving the public gratuitously will never cease. I notice, with amazement, that the Senate has passed a Bill fixing a day's work of the letter-carriers at eight hours, which will cost the Government \$1,344,000 per annum. You know as well as I do that there has not been a session of Congress for ten years that the letter-carriers have not been beseeching it for some sort of legislation. Last Winter they asked for thirty days' leave of absence in every fiscal year without loss of pay, and you gave them fifteen; that cost the Government \$150,000, and now they come in and want to do less work without a reduction in salary. I hope that your Bill will pass, and I am also in favor of raising the rate of postage on second-class matter to 2 cents per pound, and I trust that Congress will soon see the folly of transacting its postal business upon a system of benevolence and charity towards newspapers.

Yours truly,

JOHN H. PATTERSON,
Editor UNITED STATES MAIL.

CALL FOR A MEETING OF THE NATIONAL COMMITTEE.

NOTICE is hereby given that there will be a meeting of the National Executive Committee in the City of Chicago, Ill., on Tuesday, July 20th, 1886, at 2 P.M., at the office of THE UNITED STATES MAIL, No. 196 La Salle Street, room 23.

By order of

L. J. SACRISTE,
President.
JOHN G. HERZOG,
Secretary.

ALL postmasters, who may feel so disposed, are cordially invited to attend the meeting of the National Committee.

WE hope Congress will, hereafter, discontinue the charity principle in its postal legislation. We are not a nation of paupers.

WE are glad to record the fact that nearly all the lady postmasters of the country are becoming subscribers to THE UNITED STATES MAIL. The ladies are always up to snuff.

WHEN the people of this country become so poor and impoverished that they cannot pay a rate of postage sufficient to keep the Post-office Department out of debt, then we had better suspend.

THE Congressman who voted to give the letter-carriers \$1,344,822 in the shape of less work, and who will refuse to support the postmasters in their efforts to get increased pay, ought to have his wind cut off.

FIRST ASSISTANT POSTMASTER-GENERAL STEVENSON kindly sends us a letter of congratulation upon the success of our paper, and expresses the hope that everybody in his department will subscribe. This sort of official recognition by the heads of the postal service is very gratifying. We are doing our utmost to publish a journal worthy of support, and we hope the suggestion of General STEVENSON will be acted upon without delay.

ONE WAY OF DOING IT.

THE following notice was served on Mr. Stewart by the office of the "Clearfield Bituminous Coal Company," on the day of the date:

[NOTICE TO QUIT:—10 DAYS]

PEALE, PA., February 5th, 1886.

To Charles N. Stewart, Esq.:

You are hereby notified that the Clearfield Bituminous Coal Company, your landlord, in pursuance of lease dated May 1st, 1885, desires to take possession of the premises now occupied by you, being Lot No. 14, Maple Street, in the Village of Peale, Clearfield County, Pa. (described in said Lease), on the fifteenth day of February A. D., 1886, and that you are hereby required to quit the same, and deliver up possession on that day, in compliance with the covenants contained in said Lease.

The Clearfield Bituminous Coal Company,
By GEORGE H. PLATT,
Superintendent and Engineer.

This note explains itself as far as it goes. But it does not go far enough to give the "true inwardness" of it. Mr. Stewart is a Democrat—one of the strictest of his sect—and was appointed postmaster to supersede Mr. Fender, an employé of the Clearfield Bituminous Coal Company and a Republican. Mr. Platt, "Superintendent and Engineer," is also a Republican, and the idea that an autocratic company like the one he represents should tamely submit to have one of its pets disappointed was more than could be expected from such human nature as Mr. Platt possesses. But how was Mr. Stewart to be got out of the way? The only possible means was to play "landlord" on him, and by legal process "evict" him, as they do the tenants in poor, down-trodden Ireland. And, as the company Mr. Platt represents possesses all the land around the exclusive "city" of Peale, Charley will have to "get up and get" unless some power greater than that of Platt can come to his relief, and supply him with a room to run the much-coveted post-office, which is, after all, at the bottom of the above notice. As the Postmaster-general is a Democrat, he might, if he is apprised of all the facts, employ the same kind of tactics, and leave Peale without a postmaster until its managers learn to treat an officer of the General Government with proper respect.—*Philipsburg (Pa.) Journal*.

THE Postmasters' Mutual Benefit Association will amount to something at last. The Executive Committee will take it in hand, have it incorporated, and put into working order.

SIAM has entered the Postal Union, and a properly organized post-office has been opened at Bangkok under the direction of H. R. H. Somdet Phra Chow Nong Ya To Chow Fa Bnanuphanduwongse Woradej, Minister of Posts and Telegraphs.

THERE will be but one Postmasters' Mutual Benefit Association, that is, one that will be recognized as being under the patronage of the National Committee, and that one will be the result of the meeting to be held July 20th. Any other will be snide.

A POSTMASTER in Maryland, who felt himself too poor to subscribe to THE UNITED STATES MAIL, inclosed us a chew of tobacco as his contribution to the cause of "better pay." Had it been cigars, we would have made a most reverential bend. As it is, his gift is no good. Won't some kind-hearted postmaster send us a toothpick?

SENATOR WILSON, of Iowa, is still working for his Bill making the rate on fourth-class matter at two cents per ounce. The Senator is right. We favor his measure because one cent an ounce is too low. The Government loses money on every ounce it carries at that rate, and, as the Senator says, it works to the detriment of the small dealers in the country, whose legitimate trade is thereby perverted to the more extensive merchants in the large cities.

THE POSTMASTERS' BILL.

A Determined Effort to be Made for its Passage.

MR. JOHN H. PATTERSON, Editor of THE UNITED STATES MAIL, Chicago, who has been in Washington for some days in the interest of the Postmasters' Bill, No. 7,474, introduced in the House by Judge Peters, of Kansas, expresses hope of its passage.

The Bill in question proposes relief to third-class postmasters in the matter of rent, light, fuel and clerk hire, and gives those of the fourth class the first \$100 of their receipts instead of the first \$50, as at present. It is in the hands of a sub-committee, composed of Messrs. Ward, of Indiana; Jones, of Texas; Merriman, of New York; Millard, of New York, and Peters, of Kansas. It has not as yet been acted upon by the Committee, but it is understood that all the gentlemen composing it are in favor of it except Mr. Jones, and there are hopes of winning him over, as it is thought that his opposition is not vigorous or violent. It is also understood that the Bill will receive the recommendation of the General Post-office Committee, and if it does, there is no question but that it will pass the House.

The friends of the postmasters are much pleased at the situation. Mr. Patterson wrote a letter recently to every member of Congress inquiring as to their intentions regarding the Bill, and says he has received at least one hundred in the affirmative and none in the negative. There were some forty or fifty others who expressed a friendly interest in the postmasters, but preferred not to state in advance of careful investigation just how they will vote. Judge Ward informed Mr. Patterson yesterday that he would try to get his sub-committee together within a few days, and take action upon the Bill.—*Washington Critic*.

GIVE THE POSTMASTER A SHOW.

WASHINGTON, May 31st.—A move will be made on Tuesday or Wednesday to secure action upon the part of the House Post-office Committee upon the Peters Bill, granting relief to third and fourth class postmasters in the matter of expenses for rent, light, fuel and clerk hire. Mr. Patterson, Editor of THE UNITED STATES MAIL, at Chicago, who is in Washington in the interest of the Bill, says he has a sufficient number of pledges from Congressmen to insure its passage in the House, if he can get the committee to report it favorably, and an effort is to be made at once to secure action, and thus relieve the anxiety of the 51,000 postmasters who are interested in its success.—*New York Times*.

A WEAK-KNEED postmaster may be described as a man who is afraid to do anything to feather his own nest.

NOW LET the postmasters in every State in the Union come together and form State associations. Organization is what does the work—all kinds.

THE new Superintendent of the Free-delivery System seems to be a competent person for the position, and is an enthusiastic believer in its value to the public.

THE postmaster at Barnesville, Ohio, has a cat that goes out into his potato patch every day and hunts for the Colorado bug that is doing so much damage this year to that vegetable. On seeing the bug, the old cat knocks it down from the vine with its paw, and then crushes it between its teeth.

It must be understood by this time that we are publishing a paper in the interest of third and fourth class postmasters, and that we would naturally have no interest in giving publicity to views contrary to our own, regarding the merits of the movement we have undertaken in their behalf, and we must beg to be excused, therefore, from using any communications sent to us of that character. We have considered the situation fully, and are satisfied we are right, and we do not propose to furnish the gun for those who think differently to shoot off arguments. It will be a waste of ammunition to send us letters protesting against the enterprise we have inaugurated.

THE STENOGRAPHIC WRITER.

SHE was a stenographic girl,
And reveled in short notes;
I do not mean staccato ones,
Which come from singers' throats;
Nor do I mean "for thirty days,"
Nor for a double X,
Which won't quite pay your tailor's bill,
And you and he both vex.

I mean those pots and hangers which—
Do look so awful queer,
And which are made as quickly as
Words strike within the ear.
Well, though I don't use short-hand, yet
I vow there's something in it;
For she could write, I've heard it said,
Two hundred words a minute.

It chanced that in the office where
She did this sort of magic,
Another clerk, a gentleman,
Who had an air quite tragic,
Essayed to court our heroine,
As Hamlet did Ophelia.
But he on her had much the like
Effect that would Ophelia.

At length, in sheer despair, he wrote,
"I love you, fairest maiden;
My mind with tender thoughts of you
Each hour and day is laden.
I'd like to be, most charming girl,
Your own, your steady fellow.
Do be my Desdemona, and
Let me be your Othello.

She took the note, then took her pen,
And quickly wrote an answer;
He read it, and his feelings flashed
As powder in the pan, sir.
'Twas but a simple little thing,
Yet not a bit poetic;
A very efficacious and
Most potent love emetic.

"Go bathe your head." In long-hand, too;
The long'd for hand 'twas wrote it;
His bulging heart at once felt flat,
As though a cyclone smote it.
But he recovered—Love doesn't kill,
Not e'en these tragic fellows;
That heart he soon puffed out again
With indignation's bellows.

He wrote: "Proud girl, think not your wave
My human heart has stranded;
Though you write short-hand, I am not,
Nor shall not be—short-handed."
And now they speak not, though he is
Her very closest neighbor;
And thus they work, yet don't agree—
Like Capital and Labor.

J. G. F.

LOUISVILLE, April, 1886.

A PECULIAR POSTMASTER.

THE Post-office inspectors have been looking up F. Jackner, Postmaster at Craig, Mich. The Post-office Department allows fourth-class postmasters so much each quarter on their sales of stamps for salary, they taking the first \$10 or \$20 worth sold. In this way if the postmaster's sales amounted to less than his allowance, any stamps used, up to the amount allowed, would cost him nothing. Jackson has been investing in postal cards to the extent of a few hundred a quarter, and has sent them to publishers throughout the country asking for sample copies of magazines and papers, receiving large returns. It is alleged that he sells these sample copies to the residents of his village.

A YOUNG lady in Augusta, Maine, was on sentimental terms with a newspaper man. She sent a letter, of the usual confidential nature, to her lover at the office. The editor, not noticing the address, took it for a contribution to the paper, and it was published with full names of the parties. There may be a hint in this for persons desirous of hastening events.

UNLESS the Post-office Department has charges of incompetency or dishonesty to prefer against Postal Clerk JAMES E. ALDEN, of Springfield, it is not easy to see how it can justify the summary removal of a faithful official, who, after four years' service in the Union army, including a year in Andersonville, has given ten years of faithful service to the Government as postal clerk, chiefly between Boston and Springfield. For the past year he has been working about sixteen hours a day, alternating between New York and Springfield and New York and Meriden, utilizing his "off" weeks in instructing new men and preparing the way for his own removal.—*Hartford Courant*.

FRAUDULENT POSTAL-NOTES.

MADISON, May 28th.—Twenty-two postal notes were taken from the Lexington Post-office without the knowledge of Postmaster Gladden, and a number of them have been forged, and paid at different offices in the past few months. The dates stamped on the notes indicate that they were stolen during the month of July last, just after A. W. Amick turned the office over to the present incumbent. They have been slowly finding their way to Washington, where the fraud was discovered. The limit of each note is \$4.99, and, in case they have all been cashed the loss will be \$109, and will, in all probability, fall on ex-Postmaster Amick, as that gentleman failed, upon retiring, to take Postmaster Gladden's receipt for the book containing the notes. On Monday last, the Post-office Inspector visited Lexington with a view of looking into the matter.

FOURTH-CLASS POSTAGE.

WASHINGTON, June 16th.—Mr. Wilson, of Iowa, to-day obtained leave, pending the regular order, to address the Senate on the Bill making the rate of postage on fourth-class mail matter two cents an ounce. He said the present law relating to postage on merchandise was a most effective instrumentality for centralizing. Figures showed that a package carried over two hundred miles by mail at the present rates brought a loss to the Government; at the same time, it tended to destroy the business of the local dealers all over the country. Mr. Wilson read a number of letters from country merchants from the different parts of the Union, recounting the evils of the present system, by which a few merchant princes of New York and other large cities were coming to monopolize the local business of every section of the United States. Mr. Wilson, therefore, advocated the passage of the Bill increasing the rate of postage on merchandise. If Congress, he added, was not ready to pass it, the time would come when the disturbance to the business of the country by the present system would compel the increase of the rate.

No action was taken on the Bill.

RATS IN A POST-OFFICE.

JAY J. PROUTY, the chief clerk of the post-office, assisted by his assistant, Horace Williams, one night this week, made a murderous attack upon the mice who reside in that establishment, and who it is said have destroyed over \$2 worth of postage stamps. Their efforts were crowned by killing seven of the vermin. Another onslaught will be made soon.—*Era, Baldwinsville, N. Y.*

POST-OFFICE INSPECTOR PULCIFER reports the arrest at Lebanon, Ind., of James F. Pennington, formerly a bill-poster in the employ of Sells Brothers' circus, and James A. Hall, a deaf mute, for robbing the post-office at that place. The amount stolen was \$50, and Hall made a full confession. The prisoners were taken to Indianapolis for a hearing.

AUGUST K. KILCHENSTEIN, Postmaster at Laver Hill, Baltimore County, Md., was arrested Friday, and held in \$2,500 bail. Special Agent Henderson, of the Post-office Department, states that KILCHENSTEIN has been guilty of various irregularities in the past three or four years, and that his accounts are about \$2,700 out of the way.—*Baltimore American*.

THE loss of mail-bags by the wreck of the *Oregon* raises the question of making mail-bags water tight. The New Bedford *Mercury* says the question was discussed thirty years ago. Mr. JOSIAH FOSTER, then living in Sandwich, an ingenious tinsmith, devised a mail-bag, water-tight, and so buoyant that it served as a life-preserver as well as a thorough protector of letters, though it floated for weeks, or months even, on the water. The inventor fully tested its value by the experiments he made, and spent not a little time and money in efforts to induce the Post-office Department to give his invention a trial, but without any success. What became of his invention is unknown.

ROBBING THE MAILS.

A Thief in the Buffalo Post-office Cleverly Caught.

DURING the last eight months a great number of letters containing money have been abstracted from the mails in the post-office. The losses of late have been so alarmingly frequent that Postmaster Bedford thought it best to notify the Department at Washington at once, instead of pursuing an investigation himself. Two experienced Government detectives, Charles E. Dosser and B. K. Sharrets, were detailed by the Department to make an investigation, and these orders they have been carrying out during the last few weeks, with the assistance of Postmaster Bedford. The detectives and the postmaster have watched the office and the mails carefully, night and day, and at last they have tracked and caught the thief. It was decided that letter-carrier Frank Sipp, jr., son of ex-Assemblyman Frank Sipp, was the person who was robbing the mails. Sipp's route is known at the post-office as No. 17, and is on the east side of the city.

Just how much money Sipp has stolen cannot be definitely ascertained, but it is said to amount to many hundreds of dollars.

Having made up their minds that Sipp was the guilty person, two decoy letters containing marked money were placed in his route. One of these letters bore a post-mark purporting to have been stamped at Camden, Ark., the letter being addressed to John S. Hayes, Buffalo, N. Y., care of Sizer's Forge. The other was addressed to Miss Nellie Gates, No. 555 Exchange Street.

Late yesterday afternoon, after all the traps had been set and the detectives were sure of their man, Sipp was called into Postmaster Bedford's private office and searched. On his person was found the money placed in the decoy letters marked for identification. Sipp denied his guilt. He was admitted to bail in the sum of \$5,000 and his case was set down for a hearing before U. S. Commissioner James C. Strong.

The work of the two detectives and the postmaster was very cleverly executed, as a careful reading of the testimony will make evident.

This morning at 10 o'clock Sipp was taken before U. S. Commissioner Strong, and a hearing was had. The defendant was represented by H. D. Fitzgerald as counsel. The first witness called was Government Detective Dosser, who gave the following interesting account of Sipp's detection:

"I arrived here Sunday noon," began Mr. Dosser, "to complete my investigation in this case. It had been reported by Postmaster Bedford to the Department at Washington that a great many losses had occurred in the Buffalo Post-office. I first came to Buffalo two weeks ago last Sunday, and met Inspector Sharrets here by appointment. We had a conference with Postmaster Bedford, and watched the post-office that night. I left the city the next day, but returned here May 9th. We had another conference with the postmaster, and again watched the office. The defendant, Frank Sipp, jr., was in the office on Sunday night, May 9th, and his conduct was such as to excite our suspicions. So we determined to test him. Yesterday morning we prepared two test letters, one of them purporting to come from J. D. Slemmons, Camden, Ark., addressed to John S. Hayes, Buffalo, N. Y., and in the left-hand corner, 'Sizer's Forge.' The letter was written in red ink, and the envelope was post-marked in the regular way, Camden, Ark., May 7th, 1886, and bore all the evidences of having come regularly through the mails into the Buffalo Post-office from Camden. This letter was dated May 7th, and stated that \$2 was inclosed to cover the balance realized from the sale of a watch that had been pledged after the payment of a board-bill that was due to Slemmons from Hayes. I placed in that letter two \$1 bills, taking accurate memoranda of the bills, and putting a private mark upon them. Before sealing the letter, the bills and memoranda were submitted to Postmaster Bedford, and Inspector Sharrets for the purpose of verification. I then took the bills, and in their presence folded them into the letter, put the letter in an envelope and sealed it, and

delivered it to Postmaster Bedford. I have never seen the letter since. This all happened yesterday.

"About three o'clock yesterday afternoon I went to Sizer's Forge, the place where this letter ought to have been delivered, and waited till the defendant, Sipp, the carrier, came along and passed the place. He didn't deliver the letter. I waited till 4 p.m. to see if he would come back, but he did not. So I returned to the post-office. On my return to the post-office I wrote a telegram to Postmaster Bedford, purporting to come from J. D. Slemmons, Camden, Ark., ordering the return of the letter addressed to J. S. Hayes. The telegram I gave to Bedford. I knew nothing more about the matter till the postmaster brought in Sipp, the defendant, into his office, where I and Sharrets were in waiting, some fifteen minutes after I gave the telegram to the postmaster. When the postmaster came in he says, 'Frank says he knows nothing about that letter.' After some little conversation I went out to see the Superintendent of Carriers, Mr. Graser, in order to satisfy myself that the letter had gone into defendant's hands. By reason of what Mr. Graser told me I came back to the room and told Frank that we knew that he had received that letter. I demanded an explanation from him as to where it was. He insisted that he knew nothing about it. Then we took off his coat and examined the pockets of his coat, vest and pants. We did not find either of the letters prepared by myself and Mr. Sharrets, the latter being addressed to 555 Exchange Street. We did not find in the money he had any of the marked bills we had placed in the letters. At that time we suspended the personal examination for a few moments, and the postmaster and myself, leaving the defendant with Sharrets, went into the main post-office to the desk or table of this defendant to examine the pockets of his uniform. In one of the pockets of his uniform coat we found some twelve or fifteen letters addressed to parties living in Buffalo, which had been given to him as carrier for delivery. I brought those letters back into the room where he was, and asked him what that meant. He said they were letters he had had out with him that afternoon for delivery and that he had put them into his pocket as he was getting into a herdic. Then we told him we would have to make a more careful search of his person for those letters and the money. Inspector Sharrets told him in my presence that we would have to strip him and examine him thoroughly. Just at that time he was taken with a violent kidney attack and begged to be excused, and pleaded to be. I told him to wait a little while. Then we began stripping him. As he was undressing he pointed to some money on the floor, and said 'What's that?' There were a lot of bills wadded together, lying under the desk. I picked them up. They were about two feet from where he stood."

When asked by U. S. Commissioner Strong how he would plead Sipp replied "Not guilty."

The postmaster and the detectives all say that Sipp is the cleverest thief they have ever dealt with.

Mr. Dosser continued his testimony before the commissioner at three o'clock this afternoon. He testified in regard to marking the money, also to remarks made by the defendant prior to his arrest, but no new facts of importance were elicited up to 3:30, when the case was still in progress. It will probably be adjourned till Saturday.

FIFTY-FIVE YEARS IN OFFICE.

Remarkable Career of an Octogenarian Post-office Clerk at the Capital.

WASHINGTON, June 6th.—Probably James H. Marr, the Chief Clerk of First Assistant Postmaster-general Stevenson, has been longer engaged than any other living employé in the Department service of the Government. Mr. Marr is eighty years of age, and entered the service in 1831, under the famous William T. Barry, of Kentucky, President Jackson's first Postmaster-general. In that year Mr. Marr came to Washington from Maryland, his native State, and accepted an humble clerkship

in the Department. He has, meantime, been repeatedly promoted, and for years past has held, as now, the position of Chief Clerk for the First Assistant Postmaster-general. On the 1st inst. his office was the scene of numerous hearty congratulations on the arrival of the fifty-fifth anniversary of his entrance upon the duties of his first clerical position in the Department. Postmaster-general Vilas, First Assistant Postmaster-general Stevenson and their subordinates gave the venerable man cordial handshakes and warm verbal expressions of esteem. The old man has served in that period under twenty-seven Postmaster-generals and eleven Presidential Administrations, the beginning of his official career antedating by six years the birth of the present President of the United States. His record is a stainless one, and reflects honor upon his character and name.

A BLIND LETTER-CARRIER.

THE mail between Claryville, a mountain hamlet in Sullivan County, New York, and Big Indian, Ulster County, is carried by way of Denning, Ulster County. The route is twenty-one miles long, and is through the roughest and wildest portion of the Catskills. The road is so rough, in fact, that the mail is carried on foot, and the carrier is Clark North, who is totally blind. He has carried the United States mail over almost impassable Catskill routes for thirty years, since he was a boy, and has never seen any of the wild region through which he has traveled. His former route was in the wilderness region between Shokan and Sampsonville, at that time an almost unknown country, frequented only by hunters and fishermen, yet the sightless carrier made his trips three times a week with the regularity of clock-work. He travels his present circuit of forty-two miles three times a week, and has never missed a day either in Winter or Summer. Snow-drifts nor floods seem to be any barrier to him. He has never met with an accident. In spite of his long life of exposure to rain, snow, cold and heat, he is wonderfully vigorous in health. He is a walking encyclopedia of the region through which he travels. Its vital statistics for more than a quarter of a century past are as an open book to him. Marriages, births, deaths, relationships, the pedigree of stock, ownership and titles in property, are fixed in his mind with marvelous accuracy of date, name and circumstance. Any disputed point on these subjects is settled at once by appealing to Clark North. His decision is final, and no one would ever dream of appealing from it.—*Baltimore Sun*.

A BILL was rushed through the Senate in five minutes on June 2d, fixing eight hours as a day's work for letter-carriers. It may, and it may not, pass the House. If it becomes a law, an increase of carriers will be necessary throughout the United States. It will cost the Government \$800,000 to carry out its provisions.

Answers to Correspondents.

Questions pertaining to the postal service will be answered in this column, and should be written on separate pieces of paper from business correspondence.

All should feel free to address letters of inquiry as often as necessity may require.

Answers will be made by mail when desired, if postage is inclosed. Letters of inquiry, only, should be addressed to JOHN H. PATTERSON, Editor U. S. MAIL, Chicago, Ill.

These replies to inquiries are made by the Hon. J. M. McGREW, of Washington City, who was for seventeen years the Auditor for the Post-office Department, and is now an attorney-at-law in that city.

LANNING.—If the cancellations of a fourth class do not amount to \$50 per quarter, the postmaster is, of course, entitled to the whole amount—100 per cent.—and also to the whole of the box-rents, provided that the commissions and box-rents together do not exceed \$250 per quarter.

HILLSBORO.—There would be no impropriety in giving the address of the party in the case you mention.

INGRAM.—Write to the First Assistant Postmaster-general, and make application for dater, canceler and balances.

SMITHVILLE.—You should have required full payment of postage on the letter before delivering it. See "Postal Guide" for January, 1886, page 711.

SPRING LAKE.—When the *gross receipts* of a post-office are \$1,900, and do not exceed \$2,100, the salary is fixed at \$1,000, and the office becomes third-class. See Act March 3d, 1883.

MANCHESTER.—The reason why you are expected to close your office during a portion of the day of May 30th (Decoration Day) is because it has been declared by Congress to be a national holiday.

BAUCOM.—There is no national law regulating how order and peace may be preserved in a post-office; but you are expected to rely upon your local authorities just the same as any other citizen.

GOLDSMITH.—If your office is at the intersection of mail routes, it may be designated as a separating office, and a reasonable allowance may be made you for the necessary cost of clerk-hire arising from such duties. See Postal Laws and Regulations, page 62, sec. 121.

HOLT.—First-class matter *only*, or other matter fully prepaid at first-class rates, can be returned to the sender, without a new payment of postage. See "Postal Guide" for January, 1886, page 720, sec. 518. 2. The question is fully answered in "Postal Guide" for January, 1886, page 709, sec. 421.

MARLIN.—1. Box-holders should have access to their boxes at least two hours after the close of business hours. This should be granted as a courtesy. 2. You are not required to register letters before or after regular office hours. 3. If the mail-train leaves at 10:30 P. M., you should not close the mail until 9:30.

LANNING.—1. You should report the disorderly conduct of the students to the First Assistant Postmaster-general, who will, no doubt, communicate with the Faculty of the College in regard to it. 2. If packages of third or fourth class matter are so sealed as to prevent you from readily inspecting their contents, they are properly chargeable with postage as first class matter.

MILAN.—1. If you cannot sell your waste paper and old twine in your own town, you should try and sell it elsewhere. The purchaser must pay the transportation. See "Postal Guide," January, 1886, page 730, sec. 654. 2. You are not responsible to publishers for newspapers not taken from your office. Such matter becomes waste paper if not delivered within a reasonable time.

WARNER.—1. A foreign letter bearing a request to be returned in a certain number of days, the postage having been fully prepaid, must be treated as domestic letters. See sec. 456, P. L. and R.'s. 2. In cases of delay or accident to mail by reason of failure of "catcher" to catch the mail-bag, report the facts to Hon. John Jameson, General Superintendent Railway Mail Service, Washington, D. C.

STARKE.—1. Registry bills and stub-books of letters registered are valuable vouchers, and may become important in the investigation of lost registered packages. They should, therefore, be kept on the files of your office. 2. Advices and applications for money orders must be retained four years from their date. 3. Return your old three-cent envelopes to the Third Assistant Postmaster-general.

FISHER.—The Act of March 3d, 1883, which changed the rates of commissions to be allowed to Postmasters at fourth-class offices, was, after some discussion, construed as taking effect from the date of its passage, so far as it applied to fourth-class offices; and Auditor Ela so stated in the circular to which you refer, and settled your account for the quarter ending March 31st, 1883; that is, from January 1st to March 2d, under the old law, and from March 3d to March 31st, under the new law. Auditor McConville has nothing to do with the settlement of that quarterly account current.

DYER.—The compensation of postmasters of the fourth-class is fixed upon the basis of the *whole of the box-rents* collected at their offices and commissions upon stamps canceled at the several *per centums* named in the law and in the quarterly account current. The box-rents are charged on one side of the account current, and credited on the other side; but the amount is not "taken away from you," as you seem to think. If you were only *credited* and not *charged* with the amount collected for box-rents, you would be *twice* credited:

first, you would receive the *money*, and, second, you would receive the credit for the same amount as compensation.

CATHERWOOD.—The Act of March 3d, 1883, under which salaries are now adjusted, provides that where the gross receipts of an office are \$2,400, and do not exceed \$2,700, the office is entitled to a salary of \$1,200. The next adjustment will be made to take effect July 1st, 1886, and your salary will be fixed at \$1,200 per annum, if your gross receipts for four quarters immediately preceding the adjustment shall reach \$2,565, as you state.

NORDGARDEN.—Write the First Assistant Postmaster-general for Postal Laws and Regulations. None has been published since 1879. 2. This question is very obscure. If you have already a certificate of deposit made for the service of the Post-office Department, you do not need another. Send that to Third Assistant Postmaster-general. 3. Make application to First Assistant Postmaster-general for marking and canceling stamp and letter-balance.

ELLSWORTH.—We were in error in stating in our April number that postal cards could not be forwarded from one post-office to another without an additional rate of postage being charged. We refer you to page 719 of the "Postal Guide" for 1886. The editor of this paper being in charge of a physician during the most of April, the answers to correspondents during that month were prepared by an *expert* (so he said) in postal affairs.—Editor UNITED STATES MAIL.

CARROLL.—Act of March 3d, 1883—"to adjust the salaries of Postmasters," provides that where the gross receipts of an office are \$5,000 and not exceeding \$6,000 for four quarters immediately preceding the adjustment, the salary shall be \$1,700 per annum. The gross receipts are the proceeds of the sale of stamps, box-rents collected, and amount received for waste-paper and twine; in other words, the footing of the debit, or left-hand side of the quarterly account current.

NEW CANTON.—A brother postmaster is not bound to exchange postage-stamps with you unless he is so minded. If he does so, he does it at his own risk, for there is danger in such transactions. The postmaster you might accommodate with 2,500 two-cent stamps, might be on the verge of financial ruin or just ready to "skip" the country, and you would be in danger of getting "left." Better always see that you have a full supply on hand of every needful thing to run your office.

PETOSKY.—The Post-office Department is now engaged in readjusting salaries under Act of March 3d, 1883. You should make application at once for a readjustment of your salary under that Act, addressing your application to the First Assistant Postmaster-general, and giving your present residence. Whether any amount may be due you under that Act, cannot be determined until the Department shall have examined your quarterly returns and ascertained whether your claim comes under the law.

CRAPSEY.—There is no *legal obligation* upon you as postmaster to place the papers in the boxes according to the list sent you; but as a matter of official courtesy and of accommodation to your patrons, you should do so. Postmasters are servants of the people, and are expected to be courteous and obliging even beyond the duties prescribed by laws and regulations. You might write to the publisher of the paper and request him hereafter to address each paper, notifying him that unless he does so you must decline to distribute them.

GREGORY.—If you have rendered your quarterly returns regularly to the Auditor since your appointment, they have been audited, and the compensation to which you were entitled has been duly allowed in the settlement of each quarterly account. If you did not retain your compensation out of the proceeds of your office, as you were authorized to do, write to the Auditor and ask him to send you a statement of your general account to the latest possible date, and you will find that there is a balance due you, and you will be instructed how to get it.

BAUCOM.—1. When letters are received at your office upon which the full rate of postage has not been paid at the mailing-office, before delivering them to the parties to whom they are addressed you should require the payment of the amount due, and when paid you must affix "postage-due" stamps of the proper value and cancel them. You are entitled to commissions on such cancellations. See "Postal Guide," January, 1886, pages 711 and 712. 2. Postmasters are strictly prohibited from filling up applications for money orders. See Postal Laws and Regulations of 1879, page 202. 3. Postmasters must rent the boxes and drawers in their post-offices for *one quarter only*. See Postal Laws and Regulations of 1879, page 93.

STERLING.—It is always safe to follow the *latest* decisions of the Department. The ruling in the April number of the "Guide" repeals, by implication at least, the section of the regulation to which you refer.

AURORA.—It would not be an "infringement on red tape" to remit funds as you suggest; but it would be in violation of the regulations of the Department "in such cases made and provided." The risk by registered letters is infinitesimally small, and it is best to follow the regulations.

Advertisements.

Advertisements of a character suitable to THE UNITED STATES MAIL will hereafter be accepted at the rate of 50 cents per agate line, payment to be made in advance.

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MISS EMMA J. PORTER, P. M.,
SOMERVILLE, N. J.

It affords us peculiar pleasure to present to our readers a portrait of this elegant young lady, who is regarded as one of the most competent and efficient postmasters in the United States. She is not only highly educated and accomplished in the world of letters, but is a *student* in postal affairs, and is perfectly conversant with every detail of post-office business. Upon her father's death, some five years since, she was appointed to succeed him as the postmaster at Somerville, New Jersey, and has performed the duties of her office, not only to the satisfaction of the Department, but to the public. She is highly prized by the citizens of her native city, and held in the highest esteem by all who know her.

Miss Porter attended the Postmasters' Convention in Chicago, and was selected as one of the Vice-presidents, and is now a member of the National Executive Committee. All who met her were charmed with her genial manners and engaging conversation.

WOMEN AS POST-OFFICE
CLERKS.

THERE is no doubt that a position as Government clerk in the Post-office Department offers many advantages to a woman. Six working hours a day, with an interval of half an hour for luncheon—the luncheon or dinner must be taken on the premises, where a special dining-room and every comfort and convenience are provided—are certainly not too many; the salary is fairly good if one abstains from comparing it with that of the clerks of the other sex, who for precisely the same work receive three times the pay of the women. A month's holiday is given every year, besides the bank holidays, and the full salary is paid in cases of illness for the first six months. Another consideration is, that at the end of ten years a pension is granted to post-office clerks if they are obliged to leave their situations on account of ill health. The pension amounts to one-sixtieth part of the present salary for each year of employment. Thus, a principal clerk, on leaving the post-office after ten years' service, and whose salary was £150, would have £25 per annum for the rest of her life. The training, so far as book-learning is concerned, is easy enough. Girls between the ages of eighteen and twenty who have had a sound elementary education should be able to pass



MISS EMMA J. PORTER, P. M., SOMERVILLE, N. J.

the preliminary examination in copying, dictation and arithmetic without difficulty, and with a little "reading up" the competitive examination, which is held a few weeks later, and in which geography, history, and composition form additional subjects to the above, is also easy enough. It should be mentioned that these examinations are held in different large towns throughout the United Kingdom. After passing the competitive examination applicants for situations have to wait till vacancies occur or the staff is increased, and are then selected according to merit. They receive their full salary from the beginning, although for the first six months they work only as probationers. Some of the girls are, during these first six months, found to be unsuitable for the position, failing mostly in the chief requirement, which is strictest accuracy. Those who stand the ordeal have their appointment confirmed as second-class clerks, and as such they receive a salary of £65 a year, rising by £3 a year to £80. In the course of time second-class clerks may rise to the position of first-class clerks, who begin with a salary of £85, rising by £5

to £110; eventually they may attain to the position of principal clerks, with a salary of £120, rising by £10 to £170. The number of these senior appointments is naturally limited. A lady Superintendent is at the head of each branch. Her salary rises from £185 to £300, and she is generally supported by an Assistant Superintendent, who has a fixed salary of £180. In all the branches of the General Post-office in which women are employed the salaries are the same, as is also the nature of the work.—*Pall Mall Gazette*.

HE TURNED THE LAUGH ON
THE STAMP CLERK.

"Er it ain't writin' an' it ain't printin', wat kinder stamps do you put on?" queried an urchin, whose head barely reached to the window-ledge, at the post-office yesterday. The clerk at the stamp-window smiled at the youngster's question, and winked in evident enjoyment at the bystanders. Then he said: "Sonny, I suppose you've got third-class matter?" "I dunno," was the dubious reply. The clerk laughed, and repeated his winks at the interested spectators who had overheard the dialogue. "Well," he said finally, and mimicking the boy's manner, "ef it ain't writin' an' it ain't printin', I guess we'll have to call it third-class matter and send it along for you pretty cheap. What does it weigh?" "Nuthin'," said the boy, as his mouth stretched into a grin that threatened to fracture his ears. "Nothing?" repeated the clerk. "Yump," muttered the boy, reeking his smile slightly. "In that case, then, sonny," said the clerk, with hilarious animation, "we'll send your package through for nothing." "Sure pop?" questioned the boy, as he edged back a little from the window. "Sure pop," repeated the clerk, "I pledge the honor of the Government. Hand over the matter that weighs nothing." "Here it is, mister," and the boy pushed an inflated toy balloon through the window-opening. "Mind yer, I'll hold the Gov'ment 'sponsible—yer said so." And then the boy and the spectators did the laughing and the winking, and the clerk devoted himself to chunks of language which weighed more than the mailable four pounds allowed by law.—*Chicago News*.

HOLD-THE-FORT is the name of a post-office in Kingman County, Kansas.



THE NEW RULE AT THE POST-OFFICE.

"PERSONS PRESENTING MONEY ORDERS MUST BE FULLY IDENTIFIED."